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BACK A WINNER
PAGE 34

Leaders call for fairer deal on tax for North East

Talk of council charge change prompts plea

DANIEL HOLLAND and JAMES ROBINSON
Local Democracy Reporters

NORTH East leaders have called for a "fairer deal" for our region, amid reports that council tax could be scrapped.

Andy Burnham has said there will be "big decisions" to come on the future of the local charge and criticised the unfairness of the system.

However, Downing Street has since denied that the Prime Minister is actively considering replacing it.

Senior political figures in this region have long complained that the council tax system unfairly penalises people from more deprived areas.

Hartlepool Labour MP Jonathan Brash has been among the most vocal critics, pointing out band A homes in his constituency are charged nearly 2.5 times more than the equivalent property in Westminster.

And Newcastle City Council leader Colin Ferguson told The Journal that he would support a review of a system he called "deeply regressive".

» Full report: Page 5

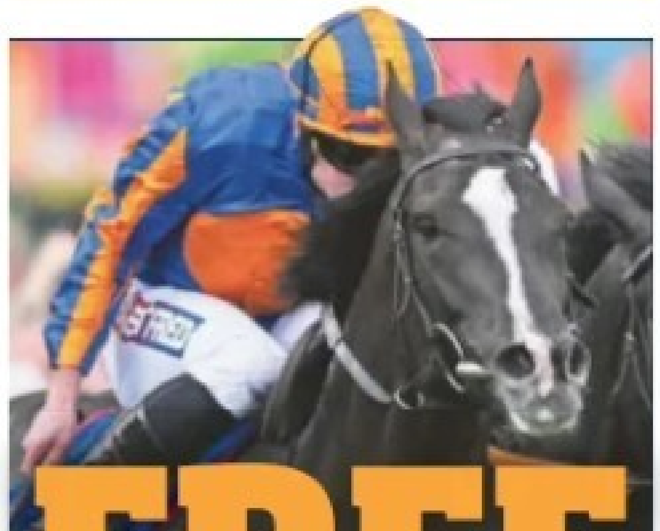
> Members of the North Tyneside community gather at Whitley Bay beach as the clean-up of more than one billion plastic 'nurdles' from the North East coastline continues. SEE PAGE 4

Nudged into dealing with nurdles

WIN
A BOTTOMLESS BRUNCH AT
las IGUANAS

SIX LUCKY WINNERS
PAGE 11

HOSPICES WARN OF PALLIATIVE CARE CRISIS
PAGE 4



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HORSE RACING TICKETS
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PAGE 21
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The Journal

Inside today

Business........13
Sharewatch........16
J2........17
Letters........20
Travel........22
Time Out........24
TV Listings........26
Family notices........29
Classified........31
Sport........33

Holy Island crossing times
06:35 to 13:55 and
19:00 to 02:00 (Thu)

NOTICES

Find the latest information on planning proposals, traffic notices, goods vehicle operator licences, licences to sell alcohol and probate notices, **see classified section** or visit **publicnoticeportal.uk**

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Chapter closed on plans to cut hours

JAMES ROBINSON
Local Democracy Reporter
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NORTHUMBERLAND County Council has rowed back on plans to cut the hours at Prudhoe Library following feedback from local residents.

The changes were proposed as part of sweeping cost-cutting measures designed to both modernise the service and save hundreds of thousands of pounds.

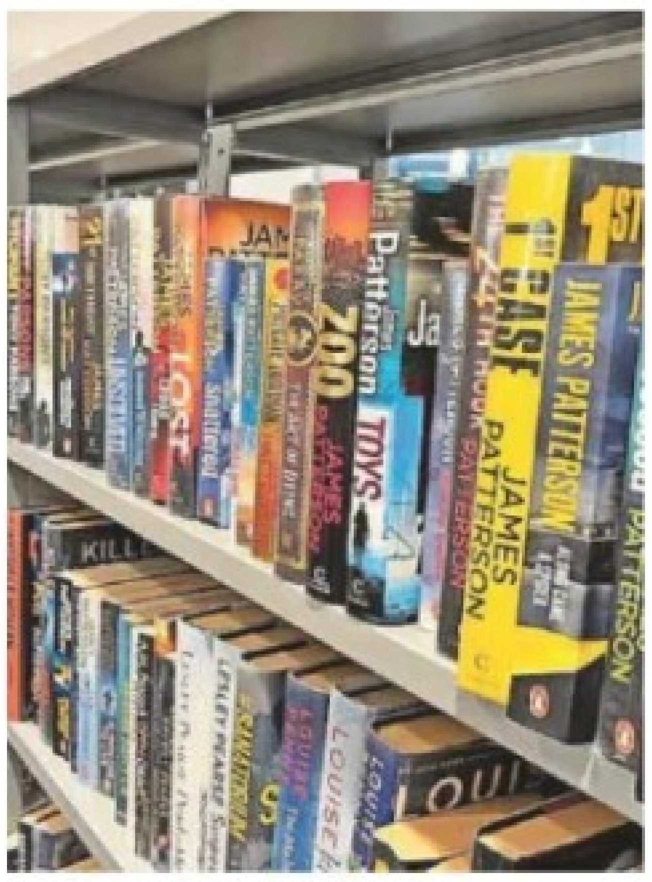
Under the initial proposals, Prudhoe's library at the Spetchells Centre would have been designated as one of seven "primary" libraries, with staffed hours reduced from 44.5 hours to 28.

However, at Monday's meeting of the council's communities and place scrutiny committee, officers admitted they hadn't got the proposals right.

Instead Prudhoe will be made a "hub" library, open 45 hours per week. It forms part of a major overhaul of libraries designed to save more than £300,000.

The council say a key feature of the new mode is the blending of customer contact with library provision.

This means there will be 21 locations across the county where people can physically access support and advice if they can't access digital solutions to their queries – significantly extending reach into communities through library buildings.


> Prudhoe Library

Speaking at the meeting, council leader Glen Sanderson said: "The need for the library service has changed. Things have changed significantly.

"Not a great percentage of people visit a library every year, but they are really important to us because the library is often the only way they can socialise and enjoy the place they live in.

"Although it is a small proportion of people, they've very important to us. We have more libraries per 100,000 people than any other council in the LA7 (group of seven North East local authorities) – but it was coming an issue.

"Some have a very small amount of people on the books. Some are very close geographically.

"We said we would listen carefully and I'm really grateful to the people who have responded."

New technology is also being pioneered, with self-service kiosks being introduced in some areas, with the first being planned for Wooler Library later this year.

Meanwhile, the Home Library Service will still be available for the most vulnerable people and volunteers will continue to visit them at home and deliver books/services to their door.

Savings have come from reducing hours, the amalgamation with customer services and a 'small number' of voluntary redundancies.

Head of customer experience Sarah Green said: "Almost 90% of our residents rated our library service as good, very good our outstanding. That demonstrates the importance of getting things right.

"We didn't want to make things worse, we wanted to make them better. The proposals seek to protect and strengthen the library services and deliver the efficiencies we need to.

"We heard that with Prudhoe Library, we hadn't got that proposal right. We now propose to increase the opening hours to 45 hours per week."

Weather

Around the Country

	Wednesday			Thursday		
		°C	°F		°C	°F
Birmingham	pcloudy	28	83	pcloudy	23	74
Bristol	sunny	26	80	pcloudy	23	73
Cardiff	sunny	24	75	pcloudy	21	69
Carlisle	cloudy	21	70	pcloudy	19	66
Exeter	sunny	28	82	pcloudy	23	73
Gloucester	sunny	28	82	pcloudy	25	76
Leeds	cloudy	25	77	pcloudy	21	70
Liverpool	cloudy	23	73	pcloudy	18	65
London	sunny	34	93	pcloudy	27	80
Manchester	cloudy	24	75	pcloudy	20	67
Norwich	pcloudy	28	83	pcloudy	23	74
Nottingham	pcloudy	29	84	pcloudy	23	74
Plymouth	sunny	25	77	pcloudy	22	72
Swansea	cloudy	21	71	sunny	20	68

Around the World

	Wednesday			Thursday		
		°C	°F		°C	°F
Amsterdam	pcloudy	38	100	pcloudy	25	77
Beijing	rain	37	98	rain	36	97
Corfu	sunny	28	82	sunny	28	83
Majorca	sunny	37	98	sunny	32	89
Mexico City	rain	24	75	rain	24	76
Moscow	rain	25	77	rain	17	63
New Delhi	rain	38	101	rain	35	95
New York	rain	24	76	rain	24	75
Paris	sunny	39	102	pcloudy	32	89
Rio	sunny	33	91	sunny	26	78
Rome	sunny	37	98	sunny	39	102
Sydney	pcloudy	18	64	sunny	14	57
Tokyo	pcloudy	35	95	rain	32	90

Today's Weather

Skies will be partly cloudy to cloudy today with isolated rain. Afternoon highs will range from 20 to 28C.

Berwick upon Tweed
Newcastle upon Tyne
Haltwhistle
Sunderland
Durham
Middlesbrough
York
Hull
Leeds
Grimsby

Sun & Moon

Sunrise	5:12 a.m.
Sunset	9:07 p.m.
Moonrise	9:22 p.m.
Moonset	4:32 a.m.

Jul. 29	Aug. 5	Aug. 12	Aug. 19
Full	Last	New	First

Almanac

	Grimsby	Leeds	Newcastle upon Tyne
Yesterday's High (°C/°F)	29/84	28/82	22/72
Yesterday's Low (°C/°F)	26/79	25/77	16/61
Yesterday's Precip	0.00"	0.00"	0.00"

	Hull	Middlesbrough	York
Yesterday's High (°C/°F)	29/84	22/72	27/81
Yesterday's Low (°C/°F)	26/79	16/61	17/63
Yesterday's Precip	0.00"	0.00"	0.00"

Four-Day Outlook

Thursday
Sunny.
19°C/ 66°F 10°C/ 50°F

Friday
Partly cloudy.
18°C/ 64°F 11°C/ 52°F

Saturday
Partly cloudy.
19°C/ 66°F 11°C/ 52°F

Sunday
Partly cloudy.
21°C/ 70°F 13°C/ 55°F

High Tides

	Wednesday				Thursday			
Holy Island	4.5	3:26 a	4.4	3:59 p	4.6	4:00 a	4.5	4:32 p
Newcastle	5.0	4:12 a	4.9	4:44 p	5.1	4:45 a	5.0	5:17 p
Tynemouth	4.7	4:09 a	4.6	4:41 p	4.8	4:42 a	4.7	5:14 p
Sunderland	4.8	4:04 a	4.8	4:37 p	4.9	4:37 a	4.8	5:11 p
River Tees Ent.	5.0	4:21 a	4.9	4:54 p	5.1	4:54 a	5.0	5:28 p
Spurn Head	6.5	6:09 a	6.2	6:45 p	6.6	6:44 a	6.3	7:19 p
Grimsby	6.6	6:23 a	6.4	6:58 p	6.8	6:59 a	6.5	7:35 p
Wells	3.2	7:14 a	3.2	7:54 p	3.5	7:47 a	3.4	8:26 p
Dover	6.2	12:05 p	----	----	6.1	12:21 a	6.3	12:37 p
Liverpool	8.5	12:08 p	----	----	8.9	12:17 a	8.7	12:41 p

> Ruby the 14-month-old three-legged whippet

Pooch saved from abusive home and 'life of suffering'

NICOLE GOODWIN
Reporter
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WHEN Ruby the whippet was rescued from an abusive home she had blunt force trauma injuries which police said were comparable to the impact of a road traffic collision.

They were so severe that young Ruby had to have one of her legs amputated.

But now the 14-month-old pup has been given a new start at life after being re-homed by Northumbria Police employee Beatrice Beaton, who felt sorry for Ruby and knew she could provide her with a loving home.

Beatrice, who previously rehomed a dog from Northumbria Police, said: "I just thought it was a horrible thing to do to a dog. I felt really sorry for her because dogs are so innocent and are as soft as anything.

> Constable Jessica Buffham

"I just thought how could anyone do that to a dog? I thought we could give her a loving home."

Beatrice has grown up with dogs all her life and said it didn't take long to convince her family to adopt Ruby, who was rehomed just before the last May Bank Holiday.

"I spoke to my mam about Ruby, and left the photo of her to try and plant the seed.

"My mam was adamant we weren't getting another dog, but she was asking about Ruby every night and she eventually gave in," said Beatrice.

Ruby has settled in well with Beatrice and her family, including their other dog Barney.

Beatrice said Ruby is full of energy, always wanting to play and is the complete opposite to Barney.

She added: "Ruby always wants to play with Barney, and I've seen more of a playful side of him. He definitely does seem happy having another dog there. Ruby is absolutely fantastic."

Constable Jessica Buffham, who led the investigation into Ruby's abuse, said the injuries suffered by Ruby could only have been caused by blunt force trauma likened to the impact of a road traffic collision.

> Ruby and Northumbria Police staff member, Beatrice Beaton

The suspect admitted causing unnecessary suffering to an animal and agreed to sign Ruby over to Northumbria Police.

They received a conditional caution and were sent on a victim awareness pathway and were also issued a Community Protection Warning with conditions which included preventing the ownership of any animal for a 12-month period subject to review.

PC Buffham said: "The investigation was an extremely emotive one to deal with being a devout animal lover myself.

"It started in a place of unthinkable cruelty which no animal should have to endure, however, seeing Ruby thrive from a life of suffering into to a safe, loving environment with Beatrice is the highest reward I could ask for as an officer."

Armed police descend on city centre square with two teens arrested

TWO teenagers have been arrested after police found an 'ornamental firearm' and a pocket knife in a bag at a packed city centre square.

Newcastle's Old Eldon Square was busy with shoppers, workers and families when armed officers swooped after spotting two boys acting suspiciously, on Monday afternoon. And when the boys were searched police found the weapons.

A 16-year-old boy was arrested on suspicion of being in possession of an imitation firearm and a bladed article.

He was released on bail after questioning. While a 15-year-old boy, who was held on suspicion of being in possession of an imitation firearm was told he will face no further police action.

A Northumbria Police spokeswoman said: "Just before 4pm yesterday officers were carrying out proactive foot patrols in Newcastle city centre, when they witnessed two boys acting suspiciously. Officers stopped and searched both individuals in the area of Blackett Street after they attempted to make off from police.

"During searches, officers located a pocketknife and an ornamental firearm concealed within a bag. A 16-year-old boy was arrested on suspicion of being in possession of an imitation firearm and a bladed article. He has since been released on police bail pending further enquiries.

"A 15-year-old boy was also arrested on suspicion of being in possession of an imitation firearm. He has been released with no further action."

Police have also issued a warning to anyone considering taking a weapon out in public.

The police spokeswoman added: "We want to make it clear that carrying weapons and knives will not be tolerated in our communities. Our officers routinely proactively patrol the city centre to offer reassurance and respond to any issues appropriately.

"We would encourage anyone with concerns to approach an officer on duty. We'd also ask parents and carers to work with us and understand where their children are headed before getting mixed up in any wrongdoing."

Over 100 volunteers join beach clean-up

MORE than one hundred volunteers headed for Whitley Bay Beach to clean up the nurdles which have been washing up since a collision on the River Tyne nine days ago.

The small plastic pellets, which are used to make plastic products such as bottles, have been washing up on the region's shoreline after a collision between the Wind Orca and the BG Orange on Sunday, July 19.

Whitley Bay is one of a series of beaches where clean-ups have been co-ordinated, with volunteers bringing mesh bags, buckets, kitchen sieves and builders trugs to get the pellets off the sand.

Councils have said that the pellets are a low risk to the public, but they are often eaten by birds and fish.

Volunteers, some of whom travelled from Newcastle to get involved in the clean-up, said that the beach was a huge part of the community, and they wanted to keep it clean.

Simon Laing, who was giving instructions on the best way to clean up nurdles, said: "We love the beaches, most of the people here come down multiple times per week.

"They bring their dogs there, they bring their kids here, this is our space and we want to look after it and keep it clean."

Helen Smith, of the Panama Swimming Club, added: "The club and the beach is a huge part of our community, it's really important for us to keep it clean. If people were leaving dog poo we'd be asking them to clean it up."

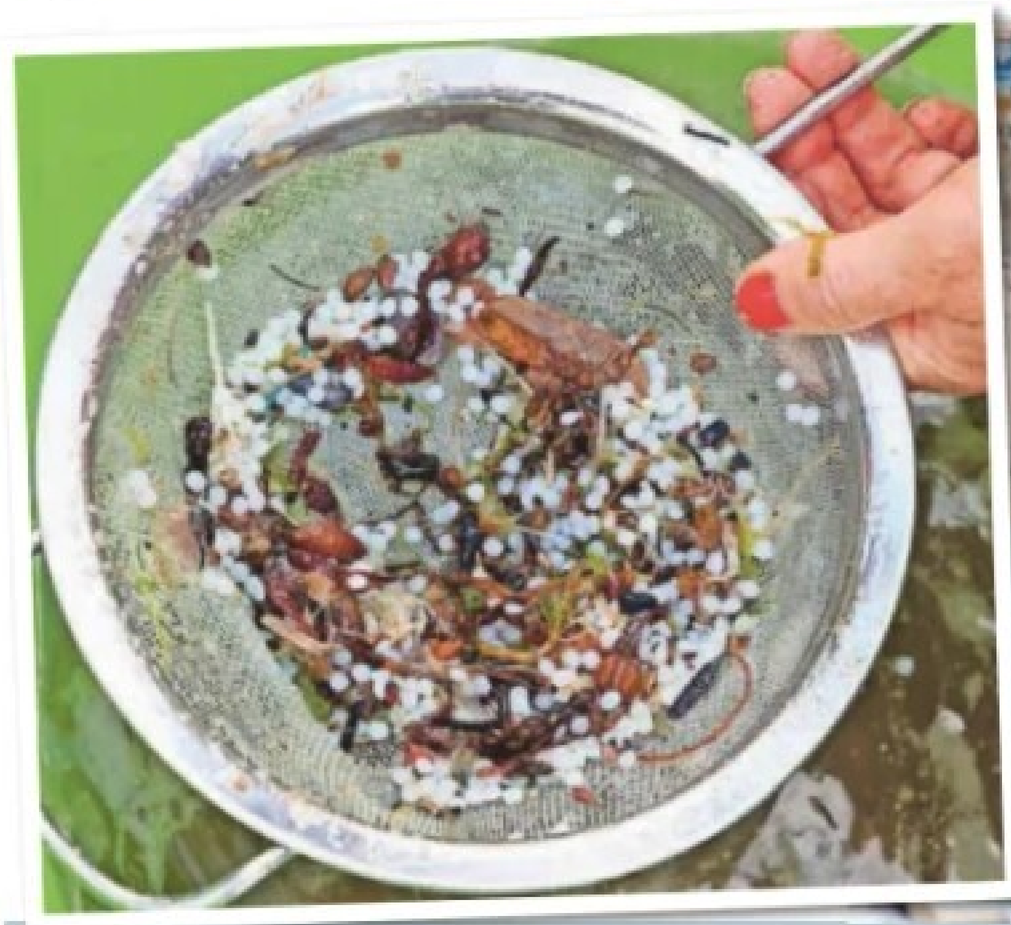
Kim McGuinness thanked volunteers for their efforts this morning after Port of Tyne announced that remaining nudles had been removed from containers on board the BG Orange.

The North East mayor said: "There is still a huge amount of work to do to clean up our coastline and protect wildlife and its urgent.

Pictures: Claire McKie

"I want to thank the volunteers who have been out cleaning these beaches and reassure them that we are making sure the ship owners contribute to this pollution emergency.

"My office will continue to work with councils to further support the clean-up operation."



> Above and left to right: Members of the community gather at Whitley Bay beach in North Tyneside as the clean-up of more than one billion plastic 'nurdles' continues

'Palliative care crisis' warning

AUSTEN SHAKESPEARE
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HOSPICES are urging the Government to avoid a "palliative care crisis" as statistics reveal that only around 25% of people across the North East and North Cumbria are dying in their preferred locations.

Regional NHS end-of-life research has found that only about a quarter of people are dying in the preferred settings, with hospital deaths above the national average (43.5% versus 41.1%) and lower home and hospice deaths.

Demand for palliative care is only expected to rise, with a 39% increase predicted by 2043.

The NHS report has also found that end-of-life care remains "hospital-focused" with many of the frequent admissions to hospital in the last months of life "not clinically required".

Responding to the findings, Steph Edusei, chief executive of St Oswald's Hospice, said: "These findings highlight a significant challenge across end-of-life care.

"Most people say they would prefer to die at home or in a familiar setting, surrounded by the people and things that matter most to them, yet too many are still dying in hospital.

"This is particularly concerning, where people living in more deprived communities are less likely to have their wishes fulfilled.

"We know that high-quality hospice and palliative care can make a real difference.

"Evidence consistently shows that when people have access to specialist palliative care, are supported to have early conversations about their wishes, and receive coordinated care tailored to their needs, they are far more likely to die in their preferred place."

According to St Oswald's, between March 2021 and January 2025, more than 70% of haematology patients attending same-day care at the facility passed away outside of hospitals.

St Oswald's also states that when a wrap-around approach is taken, working with partners, up to 82-90% of people die in their preferred place, avoiding unnecessary hospital admissions.

Steph continued: "If we want more people to have the end-of-life experience they would choose for themselves, we need greater investment in hospice and palliative care services, stronger community and social care support, and earlier conversations about death and dying.

"Hospices are a vital part of the solution, but demand for our services continues to grow while funding pressures remain acute."

In addition, charity Marie Curie is calling for the Government to fund a £200m-a-year 'Transformation Fund' over the next three years to help shift more end-of-life care out of hospitals.

Victoria Wharton, director of caring services at Marie Curie, North of England, said: "Everyone deserves to have a good death, and to live their final days with as much comfort and dignity as possible.

"It should not depend on where you live. The Government must back this ambition with real investment. Dying people in our region and across the UK can't wait any longer."

> Steph Edusei CEO of St Oswald's Hospice

A spokesperson for the North East North Cumbria Integrated Care Board said: "The ICB has undertaken a comprehensive health needs assessment (HNA) for palliative and end-of-life care, working with our partners across health, local authorities, and the voluntary/hospice sector. The HNA can be found on the ICB website and will enable us to identify our strengths, but also areas where we want to make improvements.

"Implementing the recommendations from the HNA and improving palliative and end-of-life care is a priority for the ICB."

"We are currently developing a strategic commissioning plan, which will include the following objectives, all of which will support more people to die in their place of choice:

"Supporting more people to have conversations about their preferences at the end of life; increasing the number of people who are identified as being in the last year of life; improving care planning and sharing that information with health services; improving access to training and education for palliative and end-of-life care; and reviewing how we commission hospice services.

"We will be finalising our plans over the next few months and will continue to work with our partners to support meaningful improvement in this important area."

North East leaders call for fairer deal for region

DANIEL HOLLAND
and JAMES ROBINSON
Local Democracy Reporters
ec.news@reachplc.com

> Newcastle City Council leader Colin Ferguson

NORTH East leaders have called for a "fairer deal" for our region, amid reports that council tax could be scrapped.

Andy Burnham has said there will be "big decisions" to come on the future of council tax and criticised the unfairness of the system.

However, Downing Street has since denied that the Prime Minister is actively considering replacing the charge and Mr Burnham has also ruled out axing stamp duty.

Senior political figures in the North East have long complained that the council tax system unfairly penalises people from more deprived areas, in some cases charging them more for an average family home than those in wealthier parts of the country are for a multimillion-pound property.

Hartlepool Labour MP Jonathan Brash has been among the most vocal critics, pointing out band A homes in his constituency are charged nearly 2.5 times more than the equivalent property in Westminster.

Newcastle City Council leader Colin Ferguson told The Journal that he would support a review of a system he called "deeply regressive".

The Liberal Democrat said: "I have said for a long time that we need a new way to fund local government and if this government is finally willing to grasp the nettle and look at the overall funding package for councils, that is a good thing."

However, Coun Ferguson cautioned that any reforms must not leave his council worse off than it is today, saying Newcastle's current funding settlement from Whitehall "doesn't even come close to covering a full range of statutory duties, let alone the other discretionary activity we wish to do for our residents".

He added: "It has to be a net positive settlement for us. But if it works well for the council and takes the pressure off local families, then it is worth having the conversation."

Karen Clark, the Labour mayor of North Tyneside said: "I would welcome any reforms that make the way local government is funded fairer, giving councils like North Tyneside the stable, long-term funding we need to protect frontline services, invest in our communities and continue delivering for local people."

Most councils in the North East applied a 4.99% council tax rise this year, the maximum allowed without a referendum being required.

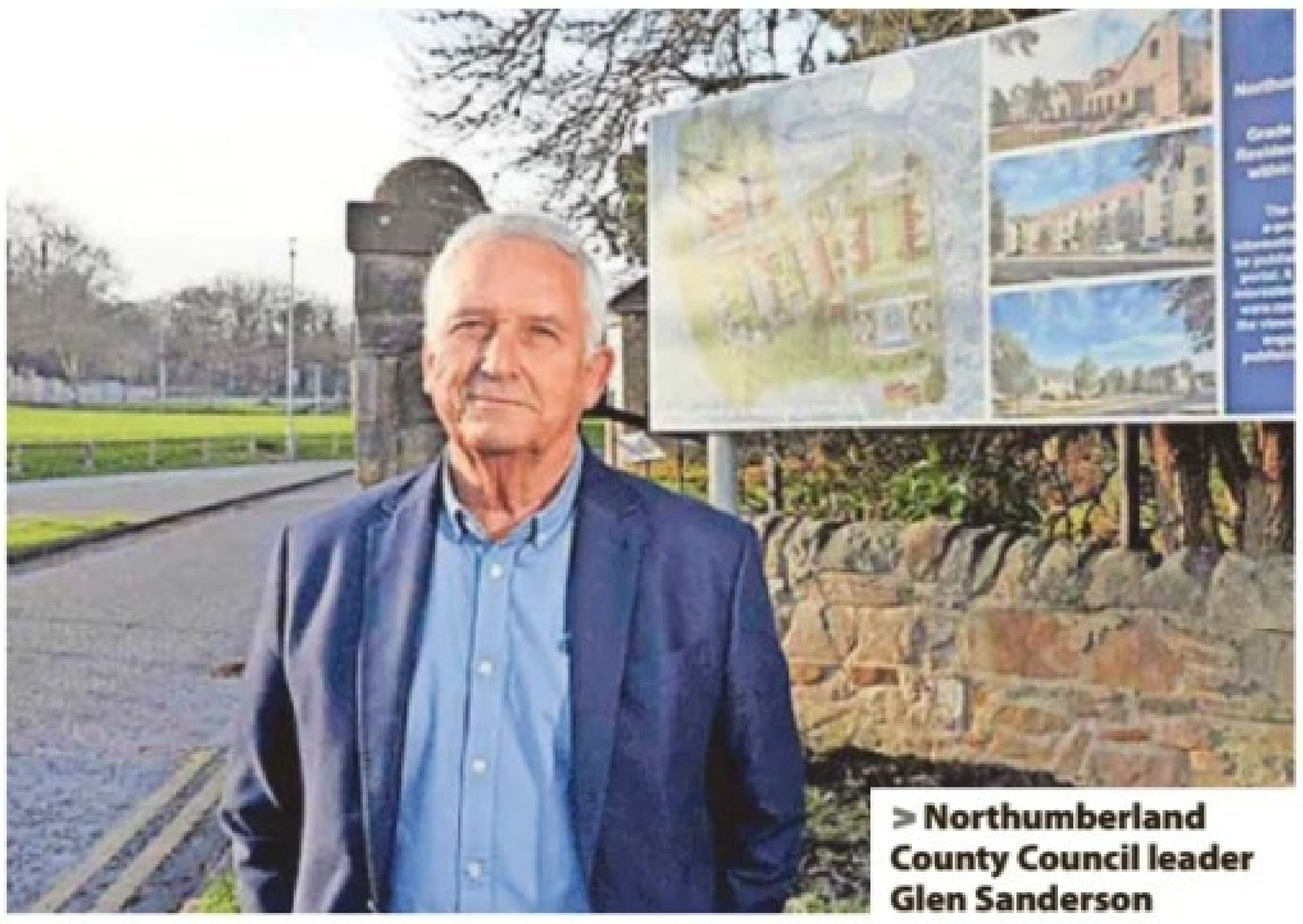
> North Tyneside Mayor Karen Clark

Reform UK-run County Durham applied only a 1.99% increase. Its deputy leader, Darren Grimes, said: "Scrap council tax by all means. But do it without equalising the funding formula, and you don't end the injustice, you bake it in.

"Durham raises less, gets no more, and it's our statutory services like Looked After Children and Adult Social Care that pay.

"I am not remotely convinced that Labour's London and South East MPs would allow such a proposal to proceed."

Glen Sanderson, the Conservative leader of Northumberland County Council, said he would prefer council tax to remain in place but local authorities given greater resources from Whitehall in order to bring down people's bills.



> Northumberland County Council leader Glen Sanderson

He added: "Our government settlement has been at or below inflation for many years and that would be fairer.

"I think it's very early days. I would very much hope that Northumberland is recognised by the new Prime Minister and that we can build a dialogue that is useful for the 320,000 people who live and work here and the millions more who visit us.

"My door is always open to have a discussion with any minister or Prime Minister if it is in the interests of Northumberland.

"The important point is the council are keen to work with anybody that will help the people and this place."

Speaking to Laura Kuenssberg on the BBC's Panorama programme, Mr Burnham said that some people in his former Greater Manchester mayoral area "pay a much higher council tax than people living in much larger homes in London".

Mr Burnham added: "We need to honour the manifesto upon which Labour was elected, and if I was to bring forward any changes, obviously people would rightly say, well, is this consistent with that manifesto?

"So there are big decisions ahead, you are right about that."

However, Downing Street later said it was untrue the PM was actively considering removing council tax. Mr Burnham told reporters on Monday that reports that he planned to scrap stamp duty "won't be happening".

Public to have their say on SEND pupil relocation plans after school closures

COUNCIL chiefs have given the go-ahead to begin consulting families over plans to move pupils with special educational needs and disabilities to a new school building.

North Tyneside Council's cabinet has approved a consultation to move SEND primary pupils, currently occupying the Langdale Centre in Wallsend, to Forest Hall Primary School once it is empty in September.

The primary school was one of several selected for closure and or merger in the council's highly controversial 'Education Review' in October last year.

The primary pupils are part of the Silverdale School, which previously used space at Grasmere Academy in Killingworth until structural concerns affecting a number of schools were discovered in March 2024, prompting the pupils to move to the Langdale Centre. Now, parents, staff, and the wider community will be invited to have their say on transferring the primary over. The informal "pre-publication" consultation is now scheduled during the Autumn term of 2026/27.

Cabinet member responsible for education, employability and skills coun Tracy Hallway said: "Silverdale plays a vital role in supporting children with social, emotional, and mental health needs, but the school is currently operating with significant challenges. It was judged inadequate at its most recent Ofsted inspection. The accommodation at the centre is fragmented, ageing, and not designed for SEND provision.

"These issues affect the quality of education and the long term sustainability of the school." In January 2026, the cabinet decided to close the nearby Ivy Road Primary School and merge it with Forest Hall Primary. The Ivy Road site would then be used to accommodate the former Forest Hall pupils.

This formed a larger part of a controversial shake-up of education in North Tyneside where a number of schools were proposed for closure and or merger last October.

Phone faux pas sees drug dealer caught

A DRUG dealer who treated himself to expensive jewellery while on benefits was caught after his mum gave police his phone number.

Owen Caris was running a county lines drug dealing phone but was using the same device to make personal phone calls and had given it to the DWP as a contact number.

Newcastle Crown Court heard that, over a period of 22 weeks, 10,221 bulk messages were sent from the phone number to customers advertising cocaine and cannabis for sale. Caris was arranging drug deals and directing a number of other dealers who were providing to "street users".

Prosecutor Kevin Wardlaw said the value of the drugs sold could be as much as £131,228 over the 22-week period, although it is unclear if it was cocaine or cannabis on occasions, so the value could be as low as £22,176 if it was all cannabis.

When arrested, Caris, 24, of Ferndene Grove, Ryton, was found in possession of a fake Rolex worth £1,000, a 9-carat gold necklace, chain and ring worth up to £12,000 and an iPhone worth £750. Mr Wardlaw said: "He was on benefits at the time so those purchases were well in excess of his benefits are are attributed to his criminal activity."

Caris said he had been approached by someone when he was 14 or 15 to sell drugs and later agreed to do so again when he was struggling financially. He said he was being paid £200 a day. It is accepted not all of the messages were sent out by him and not all of them resulted in a sale of drugs.

Caris, who has no previous convictions, pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of cocaine and cannabis between March and August last year and was jailed for 32 months.

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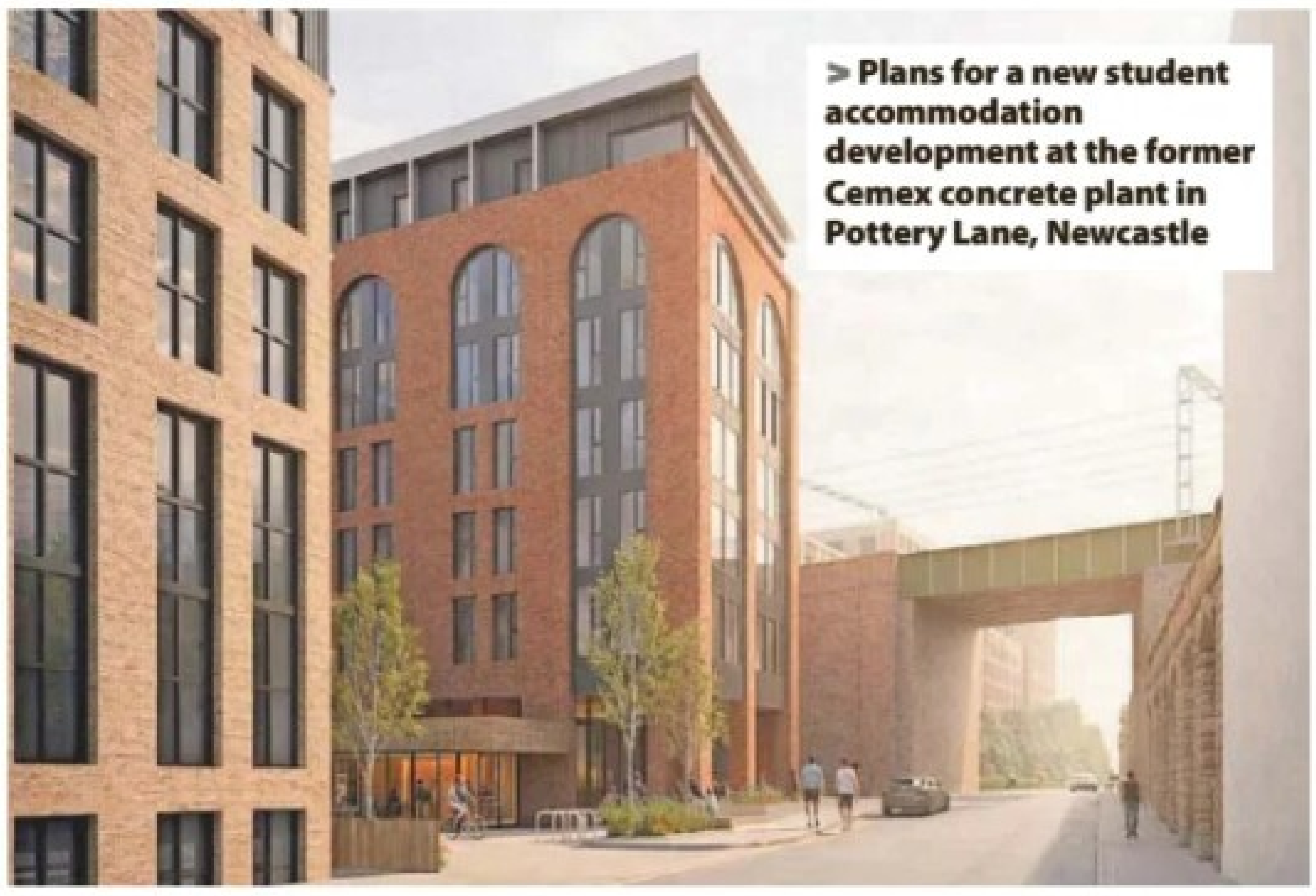

> Plans for a new student accommodation development at the former Cemex concrete plant in Pottery Lane, Newcastle

Proposals revealed for hundreds of student flats

DANIEL HOLLAND
Local democracy reporter
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HUNDREDS of new student flats could be built at the site of a former concrete plant on Newcastle's riverside.

New plans have emerged for the old Cemex works, next to the King Edward VII railway bridge.

Salamisso Developments wants to build an eight-storey student accommodation block on the ex-industrial land in Pottery Lane.

The former Cemex site has previously been earmarked for a couple of major housing developments over the past decade, but those visions never went ahead.

Latest proposals lodged with Newcastle City Council could now see it redeveloped for more than 400 student bedrooms.

A planning application describes the project as a "sustainable, high-quality development offering student accommodation on a central, accessible brownfield site within the city centre".

It adds: "The proposed scheme will contribute positively to the regeneration of this brownfield site within the Forth Yards, support the city's higher education institutions and enhance the vitality of Newcastle city centre."

The wider Forth Yards area has long been earmarked by Newcastle City Council as a key regeneration zone, with hopes of developing around 2,500 new homes over the coming decades – many of which are planned for the derelict former Calders leadworks site next to to the Utilita Arena.

Salamisso's plans are for a large housing block ranging from four to eight storeys in height, with 405 bedrooms split across 152 single-person studio flats and 253 cluster flats with shared kitchen, dining and living facilities. The development, known as The Arches, would also include a cafe, study areas, a gym, a games area, and a cinema room.

The planning application adds: "The proposed development will provide modern, well-managed accommodation to meet the growing demand from Newcastle's student population.

The proposals are designed to create a vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive living environment, in a highly sustainable and well-connected city centre location.

"A total of 405 bedrooms are proposed, within the building ranging from four to eight storeys in height.

"The development includes 152 single person studio bedrooms and 253 bedrooms in cluster arrangements.

"The cluster bedroom arrangements with dedicated shared kitchen, dining and living facilities, account for 62.5% of the total number of bedrooms and these range from three to twelve-bedroom clusters.

"The studio bedrooms, with their own cooking facilities, account for 37.5% of the total bedrooms and this includes 24 fully accessible rooms.

"The mix of cluster flats and studio apartments meets diverse student preferences and price points."

Plans for the Cemex plant were lodged by development company Provincial Town Properties in 2017, with hopes of building around 271 apartments across three tower blocks. A later vision for a 10-storey apartment block, submitted by HRE (Pottery Lane) Limited, also emerged in 2021. However, both of those plans were subsequently withdrawn.

Families' rent costs forcing them to go without food

> Couple having problem with bills and money

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MORE than four in five low-income North East families in "unaffordable" rented accommodation are struggling to afford food, heating, toiletries, and other essentials.

According to research from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), 82% of low-income households living in our region's private rented sector are being forced to go without such basic items.

That is the highest rate of any region in the UK and the anti-poverty charity is now calling on new prime minister Andy Burnham to deliver reforms to cut the cost of living. The JRF estimates that 7.4 million low-income families across the UK have been unable to afford essential items in the last six months, the highest number since it began monitoring the cost of living crisis in 2021.

After a report revealed last week that 43,000 North East households are either homeless or living in overcrowded or otherwise unsuitable accommodation, the charity has shared new data on the difficulties faced by renters.

It warned that many private renters in the North East have little financial resilience, with just under half (47%) reporting having no savings at all, while just under one in five reported finding it difficult to pay their rent bills.

The 82% of low-income renting households going without essential items compares to a national average of 77% and is notably higher than the neighbouring regions of the North West (75%) and Yorkshire and the Humber (72%).

The JRF has called on the Government to introduce new rent control measures to cap the level of increases landlords can impose in line with the lower of inflation or earnings growth, estimating that it could save the average renter in the North East £270 a year.

Darren Baxter, principal policy adviser at the JRF, said: "The rate at which private rents are increasing might be slowing down, but rents still take up too great a share of renters' incomes. Unaffordable rents leave families in the North East without enough money to afford the essentials, like food, heating and basic toiletries.

"The Renters Rights Act gives renters more stability by abolishing no-fault evictions. We need to take the next step and introduce rent controls to making renting more affordable and therefore secure.

"Unaffordable private rents aren't a given. No one should have to choose between paying their rent and paying for food. Done right rent controls are feasible and should merit serious consideration from anyone concerned about the cost of living."

Analysis carried out by Iceni Projects described affordability as the "defining challenge" of the North East's private rented sector, warning that rents are "rising faster than incomes and younger households [are] facing the greatest financial pressure". Their review, carried out for the North East mayor's office, found that the average length of rental tenancies in our region has jumped from 3.5 to 4.7 years since 2014 - with 42% of renters not expecting to be able to buy a home.

The mayor and council leaders last week warned that the pace of housebuilding in the North East must increase to keep up with demand, particularly for affordable and social housing. Mayor Kim McGuinness wants to deliver a target of 15,000 new social and affordable homes over the next decade across Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, and County Durham.

> A 'one-of-a-kind' Newcastle carer, Kelly Ward, has been praised for her selfless dedication to others in a career spanning 30 years

'One-of-a-kind' care worker celebrates 30 years of service

EMILY GRAY
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A 'ONE-OF-A-KIND' Newcastle carer has been praised for her selfless dedication to others in a career spanning 30 years.

Kelly Ward joined Eothen Care Homes Gosforth in June 1996 from the age of 16 initially as an apprentice after carrying out work experience in the home.

Over the years helping others, Kelly progressed as a night carer and senior carer, before becoming a team leader.

Louise Nicholson, Home Manager at Gosforth said: "Kelly is one of our longest serving members of staff, second to our CEO with 33 years' service and we consider this a huge achievement, showing excellent commitment and dedication."

Staff and residents held a surprise party to celebrate Kelly's 30-year career and her achievements at the home in Gosforth in June, complete with cake, flowers and even face masks of the team leader.

Kelly's daughter, who has also completed an apprenticeship at the home after two years' employment and recent promotion to senior carer, was among those celebrating Kelly.

On what the recognition meant to her, Kelly said: "Looking back over the past 30 years, I feel incredibly lucky. I'm still here, still smiling, and still grateful to be part of such a fantastic team.

"I've made friendships that will last a lifetime, shared countless special moments, and have loved being part of so many residents' lives."

Resident Hilda Thompson, who has lived at Eothen for over eight years, said: "Kelly has always been a sunny individual; she is always so helpful and bubbly."

Marion Hately, who has lived at Eothen for three years said: "Kelly is one of the nicest, caring people of all time. I think she is so helpful at all times of the day and one of a kind."

Staff member Laura Chambers said: "I have known and worked with Kelly for nearly 11 years! Kelly was working nightshift and trained me well.

"We have then worked our way to day staff, seniors and now team leaders together! Kelly is amazing, she has such a genuine heart.

"She is an amazing person inside and out."

Lack of affordable housing causes disappointment

> Hexham Mayor Derek Kennedy at the boarded up police houses in Hexham

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COUNCILLORS have expressed disappointment at a lack of provision for affordable homes at a key Northumberland town centre site.

Anvil Homes has purchased 12 houses in Hexham that were formerly used by Northumbria Police as housing for officers, and intends to redevelop the site into new housing.

There had previously been hopes that the site would be used for affordable housing. However, Anvil purchased the site from the police at market value and has no obligation to do so.

The company insist that the development will be a boost to Hexham. The properties have stood empty for almost a decade.

Coun Derek Kennedy, who represents the Hexham West ward, said: "For an eight-year period those houses were just left to go to rack and ruin.

"It is ultimately up to the police to make their decisions and they have gone for the highest value they could. It is disappointing that there is no social housing, but it is not unsurprising. I have to say I am glad they are going to be part of the housing stock again, because it was awful that they were just sitting there.

> *"It's disappointing that there is no social housing."*
> **Coun Derek Kennedy**

"I do have to register my disappointment that they are not going to be social or affordable housing, but from another point of view we have big hopes for the old Hexham Middle School site.

"That's our holy grail of affordable housing - it's a massive site and it is owned by the county council, so it's entirely up to the council. Our fingers are crossed for that."

Coun Suzanne Fairless Aitken, who represents the Hexham East ward, added: "I am really disappointed, but I am pleased that they're being developed because they were just sitting there.

"An affordable element should be on every housing development and I think this was a missed opportunity for Hexham West, which has very little affordable housing - there's hardly any. It's just sad it hasn't happened."

Responding to the councillors' comments, a spokesman for Anvil Homes said: "We fully recognise the need for more affordable housing in Hexham and understand why this is an important issue for local residents and councillors.

"However, this particular development involves the refurbishment and extension of 12 former police houses that were purchased through a competitive open market sale by the Police Authority.

"As a public body, the Police Authority was required to achieve best consideration for taxpayers, and the site was acquired at full market value. As a result, there was no planning policy requirement or funding mechanism that would have enabled affordable housing to be delivered as part of this scheme.

"Our investment is bringing back into use a site that had stood vacant for almost a decade, transforming the existing properties into high-quality, energy-efficient family homes through a significant programme of regeneration.

"While we appreciate the wider debate around housing affordability, we believe returning these long-empty homes to productive residential use represents a positive investment in Hexham and its housing stock."

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Funding for new domestic abuse support service

> Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Susan Dungworth visits Emmaus North East

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A HOMELESSNESS charity will be able to deliver 'transformative' domestic abuse support through new funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

Emmaus North East will deliver a new service, which is being funded by PCC Susan Dungworth.

With domestic abuse known to be one of the leading causes of homelessness for women, the charity will now provide a new referral and sign-posting service, thanks to support from the PCC's Supporting Victims Programme.

Plans include providing one-to-one emotional support, referral to counselling, safety planning and advocacy. It may also include the offer of accommodation depending on availability. Established in 2009, Emmaus North East provides homes for those experiencing homelessness, including women-only accommodation.

Northumbria PCC Susan Dungworth said: "I've seen first-hand the transformative impact Emmaus is having in our communities, helping tackle homelessness while also supporting individuals escaping and recovering from domestic abuse.

"I'm also really impressed by the great work they're doing to drive social change and help homeless people overcome barriers. Accommodation like this has to be about providing more than a roof over someone's head.

"Emmaus understands that and offers stability, security and skills that help people rebuild their lives. Everyone needs a home, job, friends an Emmaus supports with it all.

"The women-only accommodation is particularly significant. There are many women who are too frightened to stay in mixed-sex hostels, so Emmaus has taken welcome action to address that."

Emmaus North East also offers its patrons work opportunities through several social enterprises, including three charity shops, a woodworking and recycling project, and the UK's only free community laundrette.

Ruth Parker, CEO of Emmaus North East, also said: "It was good to welcome Susan Dungworth, the Police and Crime Commissioner to Emmaus North East where she heard real life stories of the experiences of homeless women and the positive impact our support has had on them, which for many has been life changing.

"The funding through the Victims Fund will allow us to support more homeless women who have been victims of crime. As it is difficult to accurately record the number of homeless women, the demand for the service is somewhat unknown, importantly though, we will be there 24/7 to take referrals and offer help."

Emmaus is one of 30 specialist victim-survivor services across the Northumbria area receiving funding from the Supporting Victims Fund, sharing over £3.6m across the next year, to provide support to victims of crime, including children and young people.

Abby, who lives in Emmaus North East's women-only accommodation, added: "Things are going well for me. Having my own room and my own space means everything, especially after wondering where I would be sleeping next. The women-only building is great because it has everything you need, including a kitchen. If you're not comfortable being around men, you don't have to be. You can cook for yourself and take things at your own pace. Over time, as your confidence grows, you can choose to mix with others if and when you're ready."

> Susan Dungworth, left, visits Emmaus North East

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Earthquake hits Japan

AN earthquake registering a magnitude of 7.1 shook Japan's main island of Kyushu and caused part of a shopping centre to collapse yesterday, leaving dozens of people missing or injured, officials and reports have said.

A tsunami advisory was issued, but was quickly lifted.

The second floor of the Aeon Mall shopping centre in the city of Kashima collapsed, trapping an unknown number of people.

Around 20 to 30 employees were missing while several other people were dug out and taken to hospital, the Kyodo news agency reported, quoting local police.

Shopping centre customers had been evacuated, according to reports, but several people were trapped and feared dead at the mall.

Meanwhile, one person died in a house collapse in the city of Yatsushiro, according to early reports from the scene of the quake.

The affected area is about 900 kilometres (540 miles) south-west of Tokyo. A tsunami advisory for the Ariake and Yatsushiro Seas on the western coasts of Kumamoto prefecture and three neighbouring prefectures was lifted within two hours, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi told reporters there were reports of damage to roads, bridges and buildings, as well as blackouts and fires, though details were unclear.

Japan's Fire and Disaster Management Agency said there were no reports of damage to major public facilities or infrastructure. Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority said no abnormalities were found at three nearby nuclear power plants.

The Kyodo news agency said a hospital in the city of Yatsushiro took in about 40 people with injuries and about 50 others were taken to a hospital in the city of Kumamoto.

Shinkansen bullet trains and local trains in Kyushu were suspended for safety checks, and the runway at Aso Kumamoto Airport was closed, with "no prospect of resuming operations," according to a notice on the airport's website. There were no details.

The Japanese Defence Ministry said it dispatched aircraft to the area to assess the situation.

A train derailed and fell on its side at Yatsushiro station, and stone walls were damaged at Kumamoto castle, the Kyodo news agency said.

"The shaking reminded me of the Kumamoto quake [10 years ago] and I was frightened," said Hiroki Shimoda, an official at Mifune town hall, who saw roof tiles of nearby homes crash to the ground.

The city of Kumamoto was hit with a deadly earthquake in 2016 that left more than 50 people dead.

Shinji Kiyomoto, of the Japan Meteorological Agency, urged residents to be cautious over the next two to three days.

A damaged wall is seen on the side of Aeon Mall after an earthquake in Kashima, Japan, yesterday
JIJI PRESS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

GLOBAL BRIEFING

United Nations chief in Cyprus

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has made a rare visit to Cyprus to "demonstrate his commitment" to resolving the island nation's decades-old ethnic division.

"I will do everything I can to support the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots in this very important moment," Mr Guterres said after talks with Greek Cypriot president Nikos Christodoulides. The UN chief also met with Turkish Cypriot leader Tufan Erhurman and was scheduled to hold joint meetings with both leaders later yesterday and today.

The first visit by a UN leader in 16 years came during renewed efforts to resume formal peace talks after a nearly decade-long hiatus. The last major push, which Mr Guterres mediated in 2017, collapsed in recriminations over who and what was to blame for the impasse.

Numerous rounds of UN-mediated talks have shared the same fate since 1974, when the island was divided following a Turkish invasion prompted by an Athens-backed coup with the stated goal of union with Greece.

Romanians shoot drones

SINCE Russia's full invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the war has repeatedly spilled across Romania's border as drones violate the airspace of the European Union and Nato member.

Now Romania is trying something new to stop the incursions: shooting down the drones. Romanian pilots shot down the first of three drones in as many days from F-16 fighter jets, starting last Friday, as Russia intensified attacks against Ukraine near the border.

After determining the drones were of Russian origin, Romania expelled a Russian diplomat on Monday.

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Seeking shade in Hyde Park on May 23, during what was then the hottest weekend of the year in London

DENISE BAKER/GETTY IMAGES

Deckchair alarm for capital's Royal Parks staff

ROYAL Parks staff in London have been advised not to leave deckchairs under trees over fears branches will fall during hot weather, as the fourth heatwave of the year looms.

The charity, which looks after green spaces in the capital, including Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, said it has made the measure as an "additional precaution" during the prolonged dry and hot weather. It comes as the UK prepares for more scorching conditions, with temperatures expected to peak as high as 35C across south-east England today.

A spokesperson for Royal Parks said: "We are fully aware of 'summer branch drop', when trees can shed branches due to stress from prolonged dry, hot weather, particularly when periods of heat are interspersed with heavy rain.

"Managing a landscape with tens of thousands of trees is complex.

"While it is never possible to eliminate risk entirely, we take active measures to reduce it as far as possible."

Isolation can persist for children

CHILDREN left sitting on their own at break time or not picked for teams in their early years at secondary school are at higher risk of being jobless and not in education or training when they turn 18, according to a new study.

The King's College London research – said to represent the first time the impacts of social isolation in childhood have been shown on future education and employment prospects – found the outcome was the same, whether or not the child felt lonely about their isolation.

The most isolated 12-year-olds had more than twice the odds of being 'Neet' – not in employment, education or training – by the age of 18, compared with their less isolated peers, researchers said.

Meanwhile, social isolation's link to poorer employability and educational attainment was around two to three times stronger than other important risk factors such as depression and anxiety, they added.

> Being cut off from others feeds feelings of loneliness, which in turn make it harder to reconnect

The research found that teenagers isolated at the age of 12 continued to be this way in later years, whether they had felt lonely as a result or not, with both social isolation and loneliness being independent predictors of worse outcomes in future.

Social isolation was defined for the study as the absence of positive social relationships and a lack of social networks with few social interactions. Separately, loneliness was defined as a person's dissatisfaction with their quality or quantity of one's social relationships.

Researchers stressed that the two concepts are different, as some people with lots of social connections can still feel lonely, while some people with little social contact might not consider themselves lonely. They found that children who were isolated and lonely, aged 12, remained just as isolated at 18 as children who were isolated but not lonely. This challenges what they described as a long-standing theory that loneliness can push isolated people to connect with others and build their social lives.

The researchers behind the peer-reviewed study, published in the journal 'Development and Psychopathology,' said their findings show that addressing isolation in early adolescence could help young people and lead to wider economic benefits through increased productivity.

Dr Bridget Bryan, lead author and research fellow at King's College London, said: "Our findings show the lasting consequences of social isolation on young people's employment prospects, likely driven by its impact on the social skills, education and mental health young people need to navigate the job market.

"Given the concern about growing Neet rates, these findings suggest that tackling childhood social isolation could be a valuable lever for improving young people's life chances and job prospects."

Dr Timothy Matthews, co-author and lecturer in psychology at the University of Greenwich, said: "Loneliness and isolation can become a self-reinforcing cycle, where being cut off from others feeds feelings of loneliness, which in turn make it harder to reconnect."

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The hearts behind making communities a better place revealed in awards shortlist

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> The winners of the North East Charity Awards 2025

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THE shortlist for the North East Charity Awards has been announced, recognising voluntary groups and their supporters from around the region.

Organisations and individuals have been nominated in 12 categories, with the winners being announced in a ceremony at the Fed in Gateshead on September 10.

The awards aim to provide recognition for the heroes working to make our communities better places in which to live.

The awards are being partnered by RBC Brewin Dolphin, who have been headline partner since the beginning of the awards, with Community Foundation North East and Point North as associate partners.

There will also be support from voluntary sector group VONNE, Banks Group, Muckle LLP, Millfield House Foundation, Sage and LGA Foundation.

Last year the top prize of North East Charity of the Year went to The Junction Foundation, a Redcar charity that provides employment, mental health and careers advice and support for young people. Other winners included Impact Family Services, Kye's Kick Off Group and Veterans at Ease Enterprise Ltd.

This year the nominees vying to be named North East Charity of the Year are Newcastle-based patient transport service Daft as a Brush Cancer Patient Care; Family Gateway, which aims to improve life chances for people in Howdon, North Tyneside; Handcrafted Projects, which provides supported housing and employment schemes in County Durham; and Teesside Hospice, which supports people with terminal illnesses and their families.

Journal editor Graeme Whitfield: "This year's Charity Awards shortlist shows how much brilliant work is being done in the North East's voluntary sector. It's humbling to read of all the good work being done by these groups and the many that did not make our finalists.

"I can't wait to hear more about these brilliant organisations at our awards in September. So many of these groups do great work with little or no recognition, and this an opportunity to turn that around."

A Special Recognition Award - in partnership with Community Foundation North East and Point North - will be announced on the night.

■ For more details, and to book tickets, please contact event director Dawn Owens on dawn@hold-events.co.uk or 07789 666437, or go to northeastcharityawards.co.uk

SHORTLIST

Charity Champion of the Year - in partnership with Banks Group

- Alison Jones
- George and Kate Taylor
- Iris Stewart
- Jennifer Parvin

Charity Leader of the Year - in partnership with RBC Brewin Dolphin

- Anne Fry - Eating Distress North East
- Janet Murphy MBE - Escape Family support
- Peter Darrant - OUT North East
- Sarah McPhie - Stockton Citizens Advice

Corporate Charity Partnership

- Accenture, Multibank and The Junction Foundation
- Karbon Homes and Building Self-Belief CIO
- RE:GEN North East and Back on the Map
- Sage and Newcastle Rugby Foundation

Outstanding Contribution to Social Change - in partnership with Millfield House Foundation

- Equal Arts
- Open Clasp Theatre Company
- Rape Crisis Tyneside and Northumberland Activist Volunteers
- Recovery Connections

Outstanding Social Enterprise - in partnership with Sage

- 2 Way Tenancy Solutions
- Cricketqube Initiative CIC
- Side by Side Arts CIC
- Sunshine Co-operative CIC

Rising Star

- Danny Wilson - Lifelong Ability North East
- Hannah Turney - Silverline Memories
- Kirsty Lumsden - Her Circle
- Tarik Alali - West End Refugee Service

Small Charity of the Year - in partnership with LGA Foundation

- Gym Possible
- Newcastle Women's Aid
- OUT North East
- Spectrum Holidays

Trustee Board of the Year

- Back on the Map
- Emmaus North East
- Northumberland County Blind Association
- Rape Crisis Tyneside and Northumberland

Uniquely North East - in partnership with VONNE

- 4Louis
- Bensham Grove Community Centre
- Recovery Connections
- Unfolding Theatre

Young Charity Champion of the Year

- Aimee Wager (Building Self-Belief CIO)
- Elijah Wotton-Lidster
- Luke Hedley BCyA
- Will Palmer

North East Charity of the Year - in partnership with Muckle LLP

- Daft as a Brush Cancer Patient Care
- Family Gateway
- Handcrafted Projects
- Teesside Hospice

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Hotel group hails leisure offering as revenues rise

COREENA FORD
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THE hospitality group behind some of the region's top hotels has seen revenue grow after making multimillion-pound leisure investments – with more set to come.

Ramside Estates operates Ramside Hall Hotel and Golf Club, Hardwick Hall, Bowburn Hall, The Fed and bars in Newcastle and Sedgefield, including The WonderBar and quirky Colonel Porters in Newcastle.

Recent years has seen the company draw in guests with new additions across its portfolio, including additional treehouses within the grounds of Ramside Hall, the creation of a second golf course, and a busy calendar of music festivals and conference events at its sister venue Hardwick Hall.

Now the business has published its accounts for the year ended November 2025, highlighting a raft of leisure additions. Revenues rose to £37.4m – up by £300,000 on the previous year – while gross profit stood at £30.64m, up from £30.27m.

Operating profit dropped from £2.44m to £1.88m, and pre-tax profit fell to £2.05m from £2.6m, a figure the firm said was primarily driven by higher golf course costs associated with new drainage and maintenance works.

The directors noted how the latest additions include the new leisure facility at Ramside Golf Club called The Pin, which it said "represents a strategic diversification of the group's leisure offering".

The Pin includes a six-lane bowling alley, electronic pub games, a sports bar serving food, a new golf shop and function room. It also boasts a 43-bay, two-floor Toptracer driving range – which includes a private VIP room – a new golf academy with a short-game practice area and a coaching centre.

Director John Adamson said in the accounts: "This development had a total construction cost of £9.3m. Simultaneously, the company is undertaking a £1.5m upgrade of the Cathedral golf course, aimed at enhancing its quality and long-term appeal."

To support the golf development, a new £2m loan facility was secured during the year, bringing total borrowings for the project to £4m.

> Inside The Pin at Ramside Hall

> Hardwick Hall

Elsewhere in the accounts, Mr Adamson toasts a healthy year for the group, adding that while wage inflation impacted profits by approximately £1m, "proactive management reviews of both cost and revenue areas enabled the company to maintain overall profitability".

He added: "The company delivered a healthy financial performance during the year, with revenues increasing to £37.4m, representing an increase of £0.3m compared with the previous year. This growth was primarily driven by improvements in room rates and food and beverage income.

"Continued investment across the estate has remained a core strategic focus. The directors remain confident in the business' long-term prospects. The completion of the Golf Entertainment Centre and Cathedral course upgrades will enhance the company's leisure offering, supporting customer acquisition and retention.

"In addition, plans are progressing for further strategic investment at Hardwick Hall Hotel, which is expected to form a major part of the company's next phase of expansion."

Frozen food business acquired by Kitwave

A WEST Country chilled and frozen food wholesale business has been acquired by a larger North East group for an undisclosed sum. Charles Saunders – one of the biggest family-owned food service companies in the South West of England – will become part of North Shield's Kitwave following the deal.

Under the terms of the agreement, Charles Saunders will join Kitwave's food service division alongside Creed Foodservice, Total Foodservice, WestCountry Food Holdings and Fife Creamery.

It is understood there will be no changes to the company's Yate-based depot, operations, sales or head office teams, and the existing leadership team will remain in place, with Darren Gaulton as executive director and Kim Carwardine as managing director. The business will continue to trade under the Charles Saunders brand. As part of the acquisition, the South West company will also become a member of the Country Range Group.

Ben Maxted, chief executive of Kitwave, said: "Charles Saunders is a highly respected foodservice business with an outstanding reputation across the South West, a loyal customer base and an experienced management team. "The acquisition further strengthens our food service division and supports our long-term growth strategy. We're delighted to welcome the Charles Saunders team to Kitwave and look forward to supporting the business as it continues to build on its success."

Mr Gaulton said: "The business has enjoyed significant growth over recent years while remaining true to the values that have made Charles Saunders what it is today. Becoming part of Kitwave represents the next stage in that journey."

TYNE SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

Arrivals

Date/Time	Name	From	To
2907 0845	King Seaways	Ijmuiden	RoRo 3
2907 1000	Matador 3	Rotterdam	Riverside Quay
2907 1000	Waterman	North Sea	Riverside Quay
2907 2000	Peak Bremen	Blyth	Offshore Technology Park
3007 0845	Princess Seaways	Ijmuiden	RoRo 3

Sailings

Date/Time	Name	From	To
2907 1630	King Seaways	RoRo 3	Ijmuiden

Michelle
Pride of Britain
winner 2022

Has a
kitten
called
Rocco

Loves a
woodland
walk

Has fed more
than 100,000
vulnerable
people in her
community

Nominate an
unsung hero now!

prideofbritain.com

PRIDE OF BRITAIN
AWARDS 2026 Mirror P&O CRUISES

> Amanda Drago, (left) director at Green Croft On The Wall and Susan Snowdon, investment executive at NEL Fund Managers

New funding to support rural B&B's expansion

COREENA FORD
Business writer
coreena.ford@reachplc.com

A PICTURESQUE Northumberland B&B is expanding its vision to become a rural destination after sealing an investment deal.

Based on Hadrian's Wall at Brampton, Green Croft On The Wall offers an idyllic escape for guests in its historic farmhouse. The guest house has two beautifully restored guest rooms, and its farmhouse and surrounding barns have been crafted using reclaimed stone from Hadrian's Wall itself, offering scenic views of open countryside as well as dark skies for stargazers.

Now director Amanda Drago is seeking to expand upon Green Croft's rural and historic charms, on the back of a strategic investment from the NPIF II – NEL Smaller Loans, which is managed by NEL Fund Managers as part of the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II (NPIF II).

She plans to use the undisclosed funding at Green Croft On The Wall – set directly on Hadrian's Wall National Trail between Greenhead and Gilsland – to make improvements to the farmhouse accommodation, creating high-quality ensuite guest rooms designed specifically for walkers, short-break visitors, and those seeking a peaceful retreat.

The new funding will also support the wider visitor experience connected to The Threshing Barn, a creative and wellbeing hub offering yoga, sound baths, workshops, exhibitions and cultural events.

The combined hub and B&B will create a stunning rural destination that brings together accommodation, culture and wellbeing in a picture-perfect setting.

Ms Drago's vision is to create a welcoming place where visitors can rest, reconnect with nature and experience the remarkable landscape and heritage of Hadrian's Wall, while promoting sustainable rural tourism and delivering lasting benefits to local communities across Northumberland and Cumbria.

The investment also backs ambitions set out in the Northumberland Economic Strategy 2035, which recognises tourism and the visitor economy as a core part of the Foundational Economy – the largest source of employment in the county and a critical driver of inclusive growth, local supply chains, and community resilience.

Ms Drago said: "NEL have been incredibly supportive throughout the process. Susan took the time to really understand our business and helped translate the requirements and risks from the lender's perspective into something we could clearly understand and work through confidently.

"The investment gives us the opportunity to grow sustainably and develop Green Croft On The Wall into a high-quality boutique accommodation offer that complements the creative and wellbeing experiences we provide at The Threshing Barn."

Susan Snowdon, investment executive at NEL Fund Managers, who led on this investment, added: "Having a strong familiarity with the area, it was a real pleasure to visit the site and see the progress made on the barn conversion to date, as well as gain a deeper understanding of the plans for the B&B offering.

"It's a truly beautiful part of the region, and we're incredibly fortunate to have such natural assets on our doorstep. The accommodation is ideally positioned to attract walkers and visitors alike, and I'm confident it will see strong demand and return bookings. It's a fantastic location, and it has been a pleasure to support the future potential of this offering."

Sarah Newbould, senior investment manager at the British Business Bank said: "Green Croft On The Wall shows how targeted investment can help rural tourism businesses enhance their offer and unlock sustainable regional growth. Through the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II, we are committed to supporting ambitious businesses across the North of England to develop and scale, creating long-term economic resilience and opportunities in harder to reach communities such as Northumberland."

Barclays' profits rose 17% in first half of year

BARCLAYS has revealed its profits jumped by 17% over the first half of 2026 as its investment bank cashed in on more dealmaking and activity in the financial markets.

The profit uplift helped to offset the banking group setting aside £1.4bn to cover bad debts.

Barclays reported a pre-tax profit of £6.1bn for the first six months of the year, up from £5.2bn in the same period a year ago. This also came in higher than the £5.9bn that most analysts had been expecting.

Barclays said its balance sheet was boosted by higher income from divisions including its UK bank, which rose by 8% year-on-year to £4.5bn, and its investment bank, which jumped by 11% to £8bn.

Greater levels of activity from investors in the global markets and increased income from equities, coupled with higher fees helped deliver a boost for the investment banking arm, Barclays said.

It follows a period of heightened volatility in the world's financial markets in response to the US-Israel's war with Iran while there has also been increased dealmaking with a string of buyers snapping up UK-listed firms this year.

Lending balances grew by 5% in the UK year-on-year, largely reflecting higher business lending. Gross mortgage lending hit £10bn in the second quarter, up from £7.7bn in the previous quarter. However, credit impairment charges for bad loans increased to £1.4bn for the half-year period, from £1.1bn the year before.

EY and a partner are fined £1.2m

EY and a partner at the firm have been fined around £1.2m over failures linked to its audit of online furniture retailer Made.com.

The Financial Reporting Council said it has hit the corporate finance firm with a £1.197m sanction after it breached audit rules.

The accounting watchdog also fined Julie Carlyle, an audit engagement partner at the firm who oversaw the Made audit, around £49,000.

Watchdog officials said the auditors relied too heavily on the retail group's own forecasts and did not sufficiently challenge them to check Made's financial resilience. Hundreds of jobs were lost after Made collapsed into administration in November 2022. The company suffered a sharp downturn after launching on the London Stock Exchange less than two years earlier.

'7% fall in the number of UK millionaires'

THE number of millionaires in Britain has sunk to its lowest level since the 2008 financial crisis as rich residents flee the country due to high levels of tax and the removal of non-dom status, a fresh study has claimed.

Some 442,000 millionaires were listed as residents in Britain in 2025 – a 7% drop on the previous year, the Adam Smith Institute (ASI) found.

Falling real asset prices have also squeezed the wealth of some people, while a low household savings rate has hampered wealth creation, the group said.

Shadow Business Secretary Andrew Griffith MP said: "Whatever their personal finances, everyone should care about Britain having fewer millionaires to contribute to the tax pot and creating jobs and businesses here."

The ASI rejected suggestions that Brexit was behind the decline.

For the latest business news: business-live.co.uk

Barclays profit surges as equity traders cash in on volatility

MAISIE GRICE

BARCLAYS profit surged ahead of expectations in the second quarter of the year as market turmoil fuelled a bumper performance in its equity trading division.

The FTSE 100 giant revealed it would launch a new £1bn share buyback after pre-tax profit jumped 17% from the prior year to £6.1bn across the first half of the year.

That was ahead of analyst forecasts of £5.9bn.

The British lender said income in the three months to the end of June reached £8.2bn, up £2.1bn from the same quarter last year.

Shares declined 4.8% in early trading to 503.6p, but the stock has risen 5.1% since the start of the year.

> Barclays profit exceeded market expectations NURPHOTO

The bank's investment bank arm took advantage of widespread market volatility in the second quarter caused by the conflict in Iran.

Income in the division rose 20%, driven by the performance of its global banking division and investment banking fees.

Total income from investment banking hit £3.95bn, ahead of the £3.65bn predicted by analysts. Income in its equity trading division was up 45% compared with the same period last year at £1.26bn.

That performance trailed the performance of banks on Wall Street which were up an average 69% in equities for the period, aided by the huge SpaceX initial public offering that helped fuel earnings in the US.

Chief executive CS Venkatarishnan is pursuing a mission to revamp the lender's investment banking division, pledging to slash its share of group risk-weighted assets. Chris Beauchamp, chief market analyst at investing and trading platform IG, said: "With the share price sitting at post financial crisis highs there is little room for error for Barclays, but these results provide the reassurance that the group is well-placed for the rest of the year.

"A solid run for the investment banking division helps allay concerns around the size of the motor finance claims, and for now the bigger concern will be how the deeply uncertain outlook for the global economy will play out in the months to come."

Barclays' private bank and wealth management arm (PBWM) also secured a 5% increase in income to £713m, reflecting growth in client balances.

But the arm's return on tangible equity fell to 26.1% from 33.2% the previous year.

SHAREWATCH

AEROSPACE & DEFENCE		
Avon	£18.00	+24.00
BAE Systems	£20.25	+25.00
Rolls-Royce	£14.19	+5.80

AIM		
London Security	£36.00	0.00
Mothercare	0.95	+0.05

BANKS		
Barclays	505.00	-25.40
HSBC Hldgs	£15.48	-2.80
Lloyds Banking Gp	113.05	-1.65
NatWest Group	664.80	-16.00
Santander	12.26	0.00
Standard Chartered	£20.97	-39.00

BEVERAGES		
Diageo	£16.72	+81.00
SABMiller	£44.98	0.00

CHEMICALS		
Croda International	£31.60	+235.00
Elementis 98	170.00	+0.80
Johnsn Mat	£19.59	+54.00

CONSTRUCTION & MATERIALS		
Balfour Beatty	858.00	-9.00
Barratt Redrow	294.60	+1.30
Costain	211.50	-2.50
Persimmon	£11.10	-3.00
Taylor Wimpey	84.36	+0.78

ELECTRICITY		
Drax Gp	749.50	-15.00
SSE	£23.52	-25.00

EQUITY INVESTMENT INSTRUMENTS		
Alliance Witan	£13.46	+11.00

FIXED LINE TELECOMMUNICATIONS		
BT Grp	204.40	+5.55
KCOM	120.00	0.00

FOOD & DRUG RETAILERS		
Sainsbury	353.90	+4.70
Tesco	491.30	+7.60

FOOD PRODUCERS		
AB Food	£20.56	+43.00
Tate Lyle	556.00	+0.50
Unilever	£49.98	+371.00

GAS, WATER & MULTIUTILITIES		
Centrica	155.20	-4.60
National Grid	£12.18	-4.50
Pennon Grp	470.80	+9.80
Severn	£30.60	+52.00
United Utils	£13.85	+19.00

GENERAL FINANCIAL		
3i Group	£29.13	+111.00
London StockExch	£91.50	+202.00
Man Group	306.40	+6.40
Schroders	588.50	-0.50
Vanquis	115.20	0.00

GENERAL INDUSTRIALS		
REXAM	645.08	0.00
Smiths Grp	£26.46	-10.00

GENERAL RETAILERS		
Currys	165.00	+1.10
Inchcape	825.50	+3.50
Kingfisher	311.60	+7.60
M & S	400.00	+8.00
Next	£152.40	+195.00
WH Smith	446.00	+14.00

HEALTH CARE EQUIPMENT & SERVICES		
Smith Nph	£12.00	+38.00

HOUSEHOLD GOODS		
Reckitt Benckiser	£51.76	+150.00

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING		
I"M"I	£29.74	-6.00

INDUSTRIAL METALS		
Ferrexpo	28.58	0.00

LIFE INSURANCE		
Aberdeen Group	248.60	-0.60
Aviva	692.20	+4.60
Lgl & Gen	297.50	-0.60
Old Mutual	60.80	+0.20
Prudential	£10.77	-13.00

MEDIA		
ITV	75.65	+1.05
Pearson	£13.10	+51.00
Reach	45.35	+0.35
RELX	£28.32	+150.00
STV Group	104.00	-2.25
Wireless Gp	310.00	0.00
WPP	318.50	+24.00

MINING		
Anglo American	£36.22	-19.00
Antofagasta	£35.61	+10.00
BHP Group	£31.34	+23.00
Eurasian Natural Res	217.50	0.00
Fresnillo	£25.63	+10.00
Rio Tinto	£68.65	+33.00

MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS		
Vodafone Group	123.25	+3.10

NONLIFE INSURANCE		
Admiral Grp	£37.66	+176.00

OIL & GAS PRODUCERS		
BP	525.70	-8.60
TotalEngergies	74.75	+0.25
Tullow Oil	13.56	+0.10

OIL EQUIPMENT & SERVICES		
Amec Foster Whl	546.50	0.00
Wood Gp(J)	29.40	0.00

PERSONAL GOODS		
Burberry Gp	£11.40	+54.00

PHARMACEUTICALS & BIOTECHNOLOGY		
Astrazeneca	£129.40	+52.00
GSK	£20.29	+68.00

REAL ESTATE		
Brit Land	443.20	+2.20
Hammerson	362.20	-8.00
Land Securities	707.00	+8.00
SEGRO	997.40	+15.40

SOFTWARE & COMPUTER SERVICES		
Computacenter	£48.14	-4.00
Invensys	509.50	0.00
The Sage Group	939.80	+49.00

SUPPORT SERVICES		
Berendsen	£12.68	0.00
Bunzl	£28.16	+48.00
Capita	254.50	+13.00
Experian	£29.81	+177.00
Ferguson	£186.85	0.00
Hays	64.50	+5.25
Rentokil	430.60	+3.60
RS Group	696.50	+9.00
Smiths News	70.60	+0.80

TECHNOLOGY HARDWARE & EQUIPMENT		
Spirent Comms	198.80	0.00

TOBACCO		
Br Am Tob	£46.69	+102.00
Imperial Brands	£29.00	+82.00

TRAVEL & LEISURE		
Compass Grp	32.85	+1.83
easyJet	612.00	-8.00
FirstGroup	180.50	-0.70
Intercontl Htls	161.25	+2.30
Intl Cons Airl	445.60	+4.90
Ladbrokes Coral Gp	168.25	0.00
Mitchells & Butlers	275.50	+9.00
Mobico Group	27.70	+1.80
Rank Org	101.00	+1.90
Whitbread	£25.16	+56.00

INDEX		
FTSE 100	10871.02	+89.27
FTSE 250	24004.78	+106.68

MARKET UPDATE

Tourist Rates

Australia	1.86 dollars
Brazil	6.23 reals
Canada	1.82 dollars
China	8.44 yuan
Czech Republic	26.73 korunas
Denmark	8.35 krone
Euro	1.14 euro
Hong Kong	9.95 dollars
Hungary	395.36 forints
Japan	212.51 yen
Mexico	22.15 pesos
New Zealand	2.23 dollars
Norway	12.34 krone
Philippines	75.27 pesos
South Africa	21.43 rand
Sweden	12.33 krona
Switzerland	1.06 francs
Taiwan	39.94 dollars
Turkey	57.56 new lira
USA	1.30 dollars

Popular Shares

Admiral Grp	£37.66	+176.00
Aviva	692.20	+4.60
BAE Systems	£20.25	+25.00
BP	525.70	-8.60
BT Grp	204.40	+5.55
Centrica	155.20	-4.60
GSK	£20.29	+68.00
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Tesco	491.30	+7.60
United Utils	£13.85 XD	+19.00

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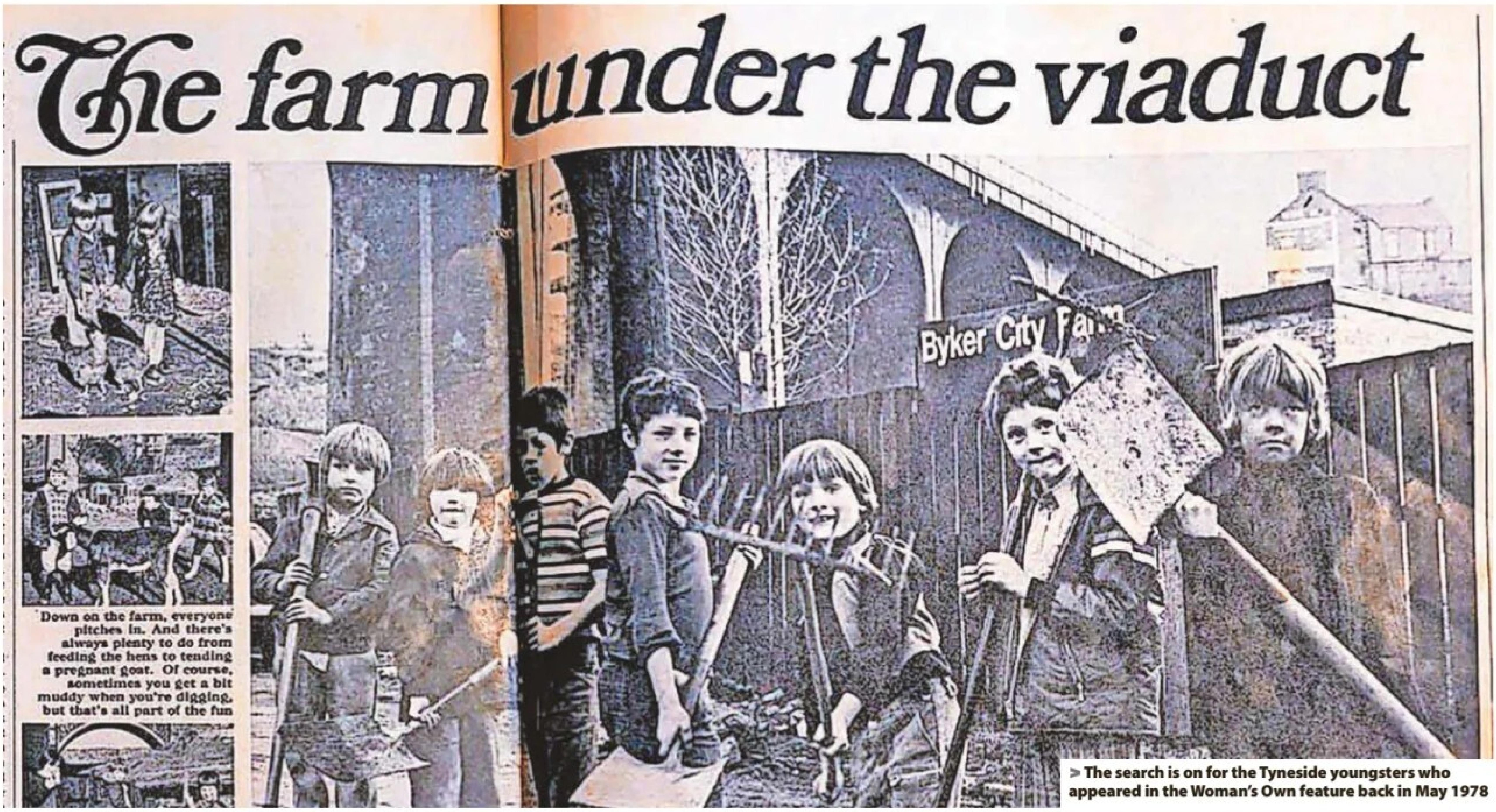
Snapshot of farm's early days sparks search for youngsters



The farm under the viaduct

'Down on the farm, everyone pitches in. And there's always plenty to do from feeding the hens to tending a pregnant goat. Of course, sometimes you get a bit muddy when you're digging, but that's all part of the fun

> The search is on for the Tyneside youngsters who appeared in the Woman's Own feature back in May 1978

As Ouseburn Farm marks its 50th anniversary, it hopes to trace local children who featured in a 1978 national magazine story, writes nostalgia editor DAVID MORTON

OUSEBURN Farm is asking local people to help trace the children featured in a 1978 Woman's Own magazine article, as the much-loved Newcastle city farm marks its 50th anniversary.

The story, titled 'The farm under the viaduct', captures the early days of what was then known as Byker City Farm – a community-led project that transformed a derelict patch of land near the Ouseburn into a place where children could spend time outdoors, care for animals, grow food, and enjoy nature in the heart of the city.

Nearly 50 years later, Ouseburn Farm is still open, free to visit, and continuing to help grow people, plants, and animals. As part of its anniversary year, the farm hopes to reconnect with the children and families featured in the article, hear their memories, and explore a way to celebrate their part in the farm's history.

The article names several local children and families connected to the farm's early days, including: Matthew Espley, Spencer Cass, Esther Davies, Jake Davies, and Emma Beatty. Ouseburn Farm is keen to hear from anyone who recognises the children, remembers visiting Byker City Farm in the 1970s, or has old photographs or memories from the farm's early years.

The appeal comes as Ouseburn Farm launches its 50th anniversary crowdfunder, raising vital funds to help keep the farm open and free for future generations. The crowdfunder will help support the everyday work of the farm, from caring for animals and maintaining green spaces to providing volunteering, learning, and support for local people.

Katie Bates, farm manager, said: "This article is such a wonderful snapshot of the farm's early days, when local families helped turn a derelict patch of land into a place where children could enjoy animals, nature, and growing food.

"Fifty years later, Ouseburn Farm is still here because generations of local people have cared about it, supported it, and believed in what it brings to the city.

"We'd love to find the children and families featured in the article, hear their memories of Byker City Farm, and celebrate their part in the farm's story. For half a century, this place has given people somewhere to belong, somewhere to grow, and somewhere to feel proud of what they've achieved.

> Ouseburn Farm in Byker

"The 50th anniversary is a chance to look forward as much as back. We want to celebrate the stories of everyone who's been part of the farm, and also think about how we'll be here for the next 50 years."

Ouseburn Farm is asking people to share the appeal, especially with anyone who grew up around Byker, Ouseburn, or Walker in the late 1970s. Anyone who recognises themselves, a family member or friend in the article can contact Ouseburn Farm by emailing jennifer.urwin@ouseburnfarm.org.uk or messaging the farm via social media. To donate visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/50k-for-50-years

Time out EXTRA

who, what, where, when?

WHO... is the leader of the Mechanicals in Shakespeare's play A Midsummer Night's Dream?
WHAT... is the capital of the Kingdom of Jordan?
WHERE... in England is the town of Oakham?
WHEN... did the English ballerina Alicia Markova die?

remember when...

> American actress Judy Garland

The following events all occurred in a year in living memory.
Can you guess the year?

1. Ronnie and Reggie Kray were found guilty of murder
2. John Lennon and Yoko Ono turned their honeymoon into a "bed-in" for peace
3. George Lazenby starred as James Bond in On Her Majesty's Secret Service
4. Judy Garland died

impossipuzzles

Freddie found this passage in Grandpa's old diary when they were clearing out the attic: "If my hourly rate were as many pence as the number of pounds Jill would earn in 3 weeks, if Jill earned as many pounds per week as I earn in thirty hours, my hourly rate would be 7 pence less than it is."

What was Grandpa's hourly rate?

wordwise

The word may sound familiar, but what does it mean?

TROUPE
A Irish-close fitting trousers
B Bird famous for its song
C Company of performers

who am I?

An astronomer, I was born in Boston in 1855. I studied the planet Mars and its supposed `canals' for most of my career. Towards the end of my life I concentrated my studies on the belief that there was a planet beyond Neptune, and when Pluto was discovered in 1930 its symbol contained my initials in my honour.

answers

WHO WHAT WHERE WHEN: Peter Quince; Amman; Rutland; 2004.
REMEMBER WHEN: 1969
IMPOSSIPUZZLES: Grandpa's hourly rate, 70p.
WORDWISE: C
WHO AM I: Percival Lowell

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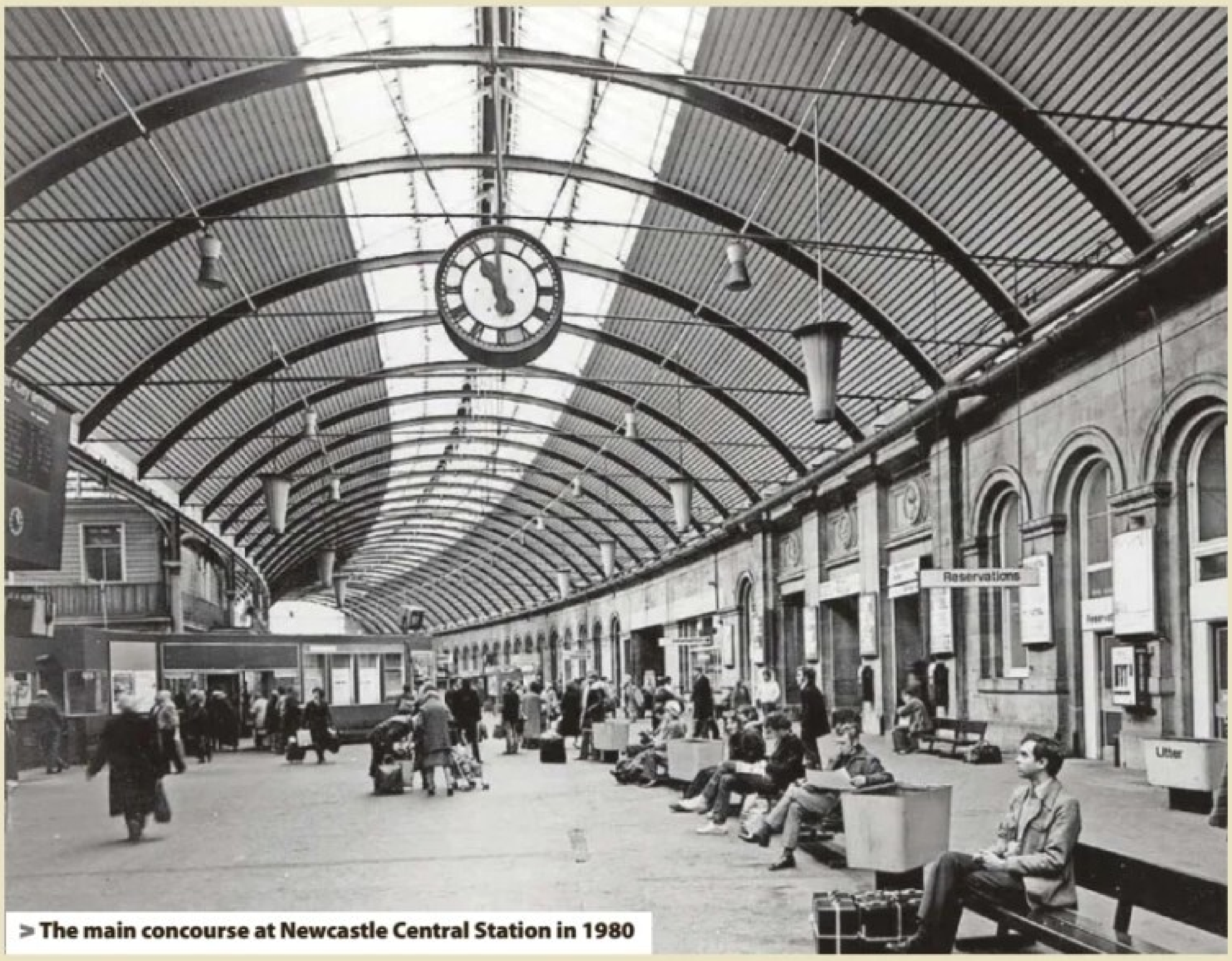


> The main concourse at Newcastle Central Station in 1980

All change at Central

IT was 11 o'clock on a typical working day at Newcastle Central Station when our photograph was taken in 1980.

Nearly five decades later, the famous triple curved roof and topography of the Victorian-era concourse remain – but the same location in 2026 is brighter, more airy, and customer friendly.

The old utilitarian, 20th-century waiting areas and mechanical departure boards have gone. Walk in today and you're met by cafes, shops, and a large digital departure board. Much has changed.

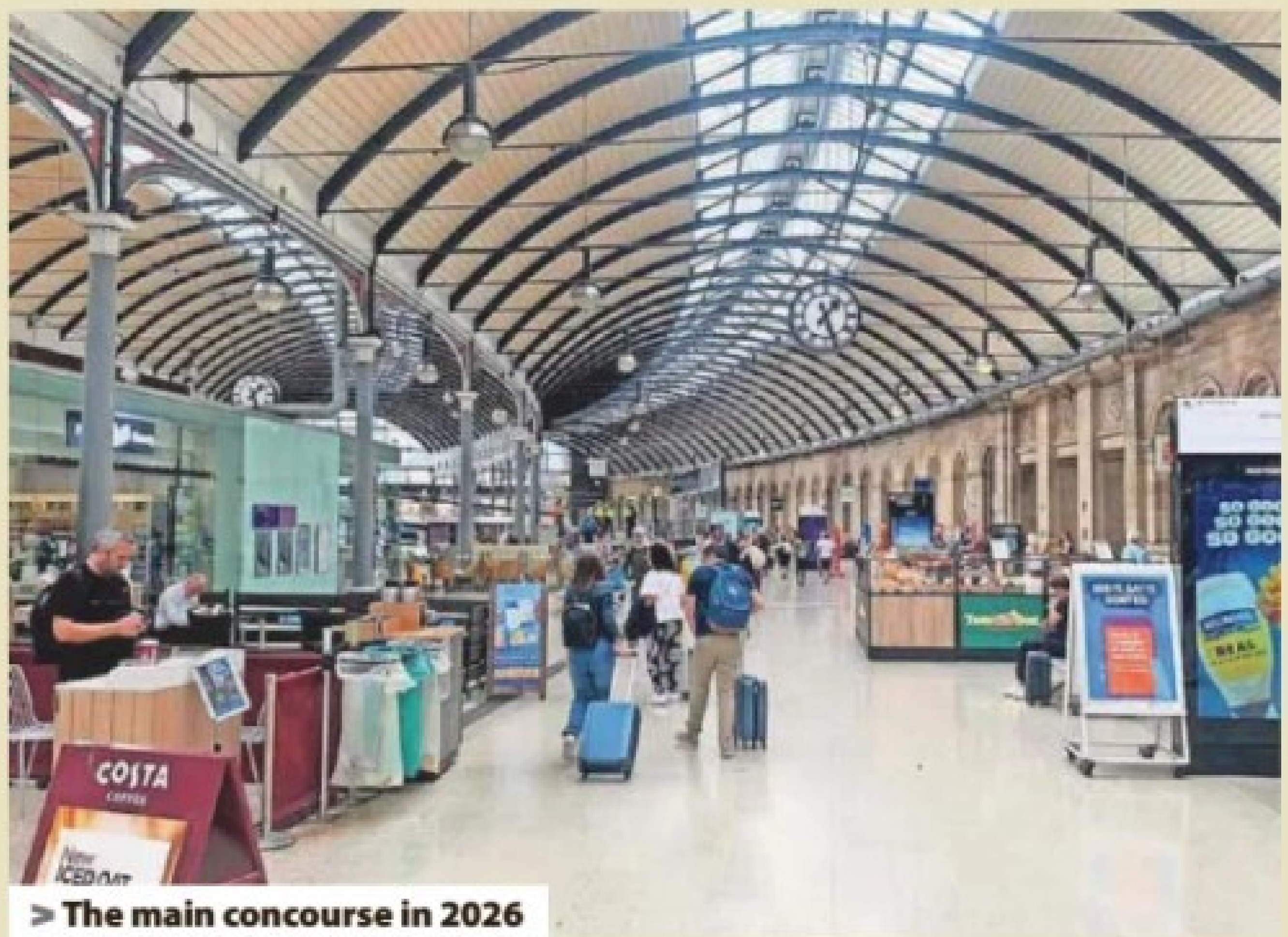
Back then, Newcastle Central was part of a sprawling national network operated by British Rail, whose dark blue livery was omnipresent across a system beset by long-term decline.

Diesel multiple units (DMUs) handled local commuter routes, while the newly introduced InterCity 125 – with its aerodynamic profile – transformed East Coast Mainline travel, cutting the Newcastle-London journey to record times.

In 1980, there were 18 daily InterCity 125 services from Newcastle to London. The journey time was around three hours, and advertised ticket prices included singles from £25.60, an ordinary return from £47.20, and a weekend return from £32.20.

The Central Station was marking its 130th anniversary that year. The grand Tyneside transport hub had been opened amid grand fanfare by 31-year-old Queen Victoria in 1850.

Designed in a neoclassical style by architect John Dobson, the station was built in tandem with the High Level Bridge across the River Tyne, facilitating direct rail travel between London, Newcastle and Edinburgh for the first time.



> The main concourse in 2026

At the turn of the 20th century, it achieved global fame for its highly complex diamond crossing, which was widely celebrated on postcards of the day as the largest railway crossing in the world.

The station's recent history has seen the continued evolution of the city's principal transport gateway. In 1981, the opening of the adjacent subterranean Metro station, linked heavy rail with Tyneside's new rapid transit network.

The Metro took over several former British Rail suburban lines, prompting the closure of the old eastern 'bay' platforms, later repurposed as parking space.

More recently, the station underwent a £9m regeneration project. The makeover saw the historic 19th-century front portico arches enclosed in glass. It turned a once-draughty, gloomy forecourt into a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly space packed with retail and cafe outlets.

Meanwhile, further interior tracks and platforms have been modernised to accommodate newer LNER Azuma trains and digital signalling and passenger information systems.

Today, the station handles around 8.9 million passengers every year, according to recent figures from the Office of Rail and Road.

Acknowledged as an architectural masterpiece, Newcastle Central stands as one of only nine Grade I-listed railway stations in the UK, sharing elite status with the likes of London's St Pancras and King's Cross.

SELF-HELP BOOKS

MARION McMULLEN *LOOKS AT WRITERS WHO PUBLISHED THEIR OWN WORKS AND FOUND GREAT SUCCESS*

TOP BUN: Peter Rabbit has gone on to screen success with two major movies

The Tale of
PETER RABBIT.
By BEATRIX POTTER.
COPYRIGHT.

PLAN BEA: Beatrix Potter, left, first published her tales of a mischievous bunny called Peter herself, launching a series of classic stories that would be loved by children to this day. Right, a first edition of the book that started it all

"THANK goodness I was never sent to school," said Beatrix Potter, "it would have rubbed off some of the originality".

The beloved children's author and illustrator was born in Kensington, London 160 years ago on July 28, 1866, and was taught at home by governesses, drawing her literary inspiration from nature.

Her tales of the mischievous Peter Rabbit and his animal friends have captivated readers for generations, but the story was rejected by six publishers before Beatrix printed 250 copies herself in 1901 for family and friends.

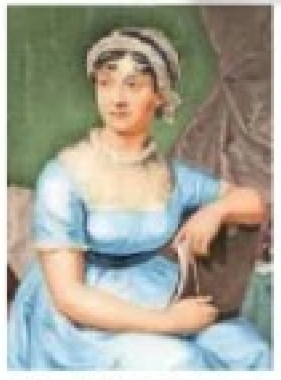
Frederick Warne & Co eventually published her work the following year and she went on to write 23 books about Peter and animals like Jemima Puddle-Duck, Squirrel Nutkin and Mrs Tiggy-Winkle. She also branched out into the world of merchandising with the first Peter Rabbit doll.

Gavin & Stacey's James Corden voiced Peter in both the 2018 and 2021 movies and Oscar winner Dame Emma Thompson has continued the legacy of Beatrix Potter with further Peter Rabbit books.

Meanwhile, Beatrix's legacy lives on, She left almost all her land in the Lake District and her original book illustrations to the National Trust when she died in 1943 at the age of 77.

Beatrix is not the only author who decided to self-publish their own work in the belief that there were readers out there for their stories.

Pride And Prejudice and Emma author Jane Austen took a risk and self-published her first work, Sense And Sensibility, in 1811 when she was 36. The first edition sold out and launched her writing career, but it was thought unseemly for a woman at that time to be seen making a profit, so the book simply said it was written "By A Lady". All 750 self-published copies sold out and the book was quickly reprinted.

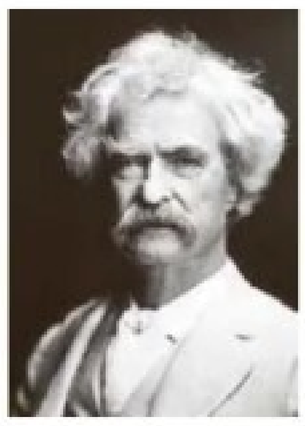


ANONYMOUS: Jane Austen

The tale of the Dashwood family has been adapted for TV and film several times over the years, with Kate Winslet and Emma Thompson appearing in the 1995 movie version. Emma won an Oscar for her adaptation of the classic novel and also met her future husband, actor Greg Wise, while they were both working on the film.

Daisy Edgar-Jones will star in a new movie release of Sense And Sensibility later this year.

Aspiring American writer Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known by his pen name Mark Twain, self-published The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn with his nephew Charles Webster as a Charles Webster & Co imprint.



SELF-TWAINED: Samuel Clemens

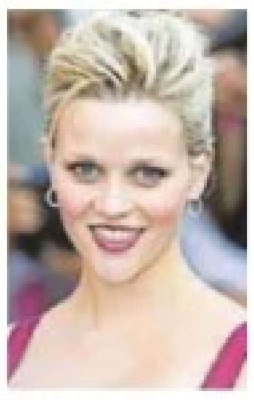
They sold more than 40,000 copies by subscription before the book was published in 1894 and once pointed out "The secret of getting ahead is getting started".

The Handmaid's Tale author Margaret Atwood printed 200 copies of her debut collection of poetry called Double Persephone in 1961. It won the Canadian writer the E J Pratt medal and she has said: "If I waited for perfection, I would never write a word."

THE HANDMAID'S TALE
MARGARET ATWOOD

SELF-MAID: Margaret Atwood

Amanda Brown self-published her novel Legally Blonde, based on her experiences at Stanford Law School. Fittingly, Amanda said she originally wrote the story on pink paper with a pink furry pen.



ELLE: Reese Witherspoon

Her work was turned into the 2001 film starring Reese Witherspoon as the blonde, smart, fashion-loving Elle Wood, who follows her ex-boyfriend to law school. The success of the movie led to the book being officially published in 2003.

Lexi Minetree plays a teenage Elle Woods in the new Legally Blonde prequel series, Elle, on Prime Video.

Erotic offering Fifty Shades Of Grey by E L James has sold more than 150 million copies worldwide and set the record for the fastest-selling paperback in the UK. British author Erika Mitchell, who uses the pen name E L James, began writing on fan fiction websites and once described her Fifty Shades trilogy as "my midlife crisis, writ large".

The first book , Fifty Shades Of Grey, was published in 2011 and was followed by Fifty Shades Darker and Fifty Shades Free.

The first film version featuring Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan was released back in 2015.

HOT SELLER: EL James, right, and Fifty Shades film stars Jamie Dornan and Dakota Johnson, above

THE LAST WORD IN MY-SPACE BLOGS

ARES III
THE MARTIAN
ANDY WEIR

RESCUE MISSION: Matt Damon as Watney

The Martian by American writer Andy Weir began as a blog and gained a cult following when posted in serial form. He sold more than 35,000 copies when he self-published a Kindle version and it went on to become a bestseller in 2011. Matt Damon played astronaut Mark Watney in the 2015 movie directed by Sir Ridley Scott. Watney finds himself stranded alone on Mars trying to figure out how to survive with limited supplies of food, water and oxygen until a rescue mission can reach him. He relies on ingenuity and a can-do attitude, much like the author who created him.

J2 Opinion

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Your View of the North

STORM AT ST MARY'S by John Turner, from our archive – send your views of the North East and Cumbria to jnl.letters@ncjmedia.co.uk and include your name and where the photo was taken. If you would like to buy any picture taken by Journal photographers visit https://reachphotosales.co.uk/Reach or email sales@dipintosales.co.uk or call 01604 683902

The Journal

Taxing our minds

THERE is little doubt that reform is needed in the way that taxes – particularly those collected locally – are distributed throughout the UK.

After decades of funding cuts for councils, few would disagree that the dial needs to be turned the other way if we are ever to have the sort of public services we aspire to, especially in regions such as ours.

Previous governments have tinkered with local taxation – remember the Poll Tax? – be it property rates or other local authority charges.

And the subject is now taxing the mind of our new Prime Minister, who is pondering the merits of potentially getting rid of council tax.

This has prompted some of our region's leaders to plead for a fairer deal for the North East.

We would all like to see more funds coming our way which could be used to improve our lot.

Selling the idea to those in the more affluent south may not be so easy for Mr Burnham.

Taking out the garbage...

ONE advantage of having a degree in mathematics is that you can see through a nonsensical argument constructed using AI. Even when it is repeated ad nauseum. Like the one concerning the supposed Brexit-driven missing growth (Peter Brown, letters, July 24).

Apparently a bunch of teenage scribblers from Goldman Sachs trying to make a name for themselves threw a few outlandish assumptions into an AI device and concluded that if Brexit had never happened we would all be rich. Declaring in no uncertain terms that they had found the illusive magic money tree.

Without Brexit, they said, families across the nation would be around £6,000 better off!

Think about it. Real GDP data shows the UK more or less in step with France and Germany (possibly slightly ahead). The prediction says we should by now be 6% behind.

Please, Peter, the next time you present this argument (and I am sure there will be a next time), please explain why the real data doesn't, on the face of it, support the AI-generated "facts".

Remember that old acronym from the early days of computing ... GIGO (Garbage in, Garbage out). It's as true today as it was 50 years ago.

John Hodgkins, Seaton Sluice

Excuses are wearing thin

IN a summer of record heatwaves, wildfires and escalating conflict in the Middle East, the excuses for clinging to fossil fuels are wearing thin.

Back in 2009, Denmark's national oil company dismantled its North Sea oil and gas business, and transformed itself into Ørsted – now the world's largest developer of offshore wind.

Here in the UK, the oil and gas industry has delayed action for decades. Despite doubling their profits during recent global conflicts, majors like BP continue lobbying to protect a highly polluting industry rather than reinvest their profits in diversifying into clean energy.

At the same time, backward-looking car manufacturers are lobbying hard to keep producing polluting petrol and hybrid vehicles – simply to delay the day of reckoning when they must compete with more innovative rivals who were quicker to embrace electric vehicles.

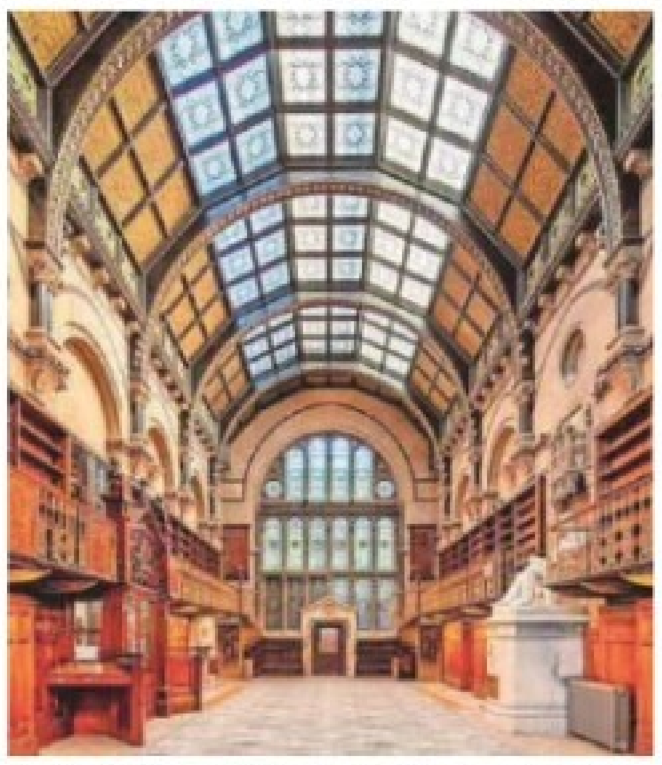
Every major transition creates winners and losers, but today's industrial laggards – from oil majors to car makers – are actively lobbying to slow down much-needed progress. We can allow these industries to shirk responsibility and profit from pollution – making heatwaves hotter and our lives less secure – or we can see their self-interested lobbying for what it is and demand a clean energy system that serves everyone.

Caroline Snow

A potential Parliament

REGARDING devolution and the Regional Parliament and Government of Northern England: Neville Hall, in Newcastle, is another potential temporary or long-term venue in which The Parliament of The North can be convened to progress real devolution for the entire North of England.

Simon Burdis, Morpeth, Northumberland, The Kingdom of



> Could the historic but threatened Neville Hall host a Parliament?

On this day

- 1565: Mary Queen of Scots married her cousin, Lord Darnley, in the Old Abbey Chapel at Holyrood, Edinburgh.
- 1588: The Spanish Armada, sent by Philip II in an attempt to invade England, was sighted off Cornwall. It was defeated by the English fleet under Howard and Drake, the battle beginning off Plymouth.
- 1801: George Bradshaw, English publisher and originator of the railway guides, was born.
- 1856: Robert Schumann, German composer who went insane and threw himself in the Rhine in 1854, died in an asylum near Bonn.
- 1883: Benito Mussolini, Italian founder of the Fascist Party and ally of Hitler, was born in Predappio.
- 1922: Will Hay was the first comedian on British radio, when excerpts from a show at the Apollo Theatre were broadcast on a programme called Listening In.
- 1938: First edition of the Beano comic was published.
- 1948: The first post-war Olympic Games opened in London.
- 1966: Bob Dylan was badly hurt in a motorbike crash near Woodstock.

- 1981: The Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer were married at St Paul's Cathedral, above.
- ON THIS DAY LAST YEAR: TV stars Cat Deeley and Patrick Kielty announced their separation after more than a decade of marriage.
- BIRTHDAYS: Diane Keen, actress, 80; Stephen Timms MP, 71; Carl Cox, DJ, 64; Sally Gunnell, athlete, 60; Andi Peters, TV presenter, 56; Wil Wheaton, actor, 54; Stephen Dorff, actor, 53; Joey Essex, 36.

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Hello hello hello, the poshest Premier Inn

HERE FOR ARREST: Modern communal area

FAIR COP: Old station in Farringdon

AMY JONES *CHECKS INTO A FORMER VICTORIAN LONDON POLICE STATION*

AS THE UK's largest hotel chain, Premier Inn promises a restful night's stay in more than 85,000 rooms across the country in over 800 locations.

Owned by Whitbread, the brand is known for its dependable, budget-friendly accommodation and those memorable Lenny Henry adverts.

It has expanded with the ZIP by Premier Inn range, found on the outskirts of towns and cities, and the hub by Premier Inn range, which are more central.

While they might be more compact, they don't compromise on comfort.

One hub, which opened in February this year, has even earned a reputation as the "UK's poshest Premier Inn".

Its location, in a former Victorian police station in the heart of London, might just have something to do with it. That and its trendy interiors, which could easily compare to an independent boutique, as I discovered.

Finding a hotel in the capital can be a minefield so when the hub by Premier Inn London Farringdon (Old Bailey) hotel popped up, I was intrigued. Not only was it nestled in a lively and convenient area of central London, it also proved to be much more than a hotel.

That's because this particular hub is housed inside the former Snow Hill Police Station, an 1870s Grade II-listed building that combines original Victorian features with contemporary interiors for a unique, affordable stay.

The hotel is right by Farringdon train station, close to St Paul's Cathedral.

With rooms starting from £75, you can't fault the price, and as soon as I peered up at the historic Old Bailey and walked through its grand doors, it felt far from a budget hotel.

What stood out among its authentic features was the striking white-tiled stairway, with tall ceilings, arched windows, and a concrete floor that made me feel as though I was about to turn myself in rather than check in.

It even boasted a traditional square police lantern that once guided officers to the station.

EASY CELL: Hub's smart use of space

It was only when I reached the shiny reception that I remembered it was a hotel. Just to the side of the front desk is a communal lounge where guests can unwind on one of its elegant sofas and armchairs. Beneath its white, ornate ceiling, the space is thoughtfully divided by a metal shelf, making it feel like a home from home.

There's also a bar and a dining area where breakfast is served. There's a mix of "heritage bedrooms" as well as the classic hub rooms, with 212 rooms across eight stories and free wi-fi.

I checked into one of their standard rooms, boasting a double bed and en-suite. While it was compact, it made full use of the 11sqm space.

There was storage under the bed big enough for a large suitcase, alongside a pull-out drawer, and opposite a small desk area with even more space to keep bags out of the way. There were useful shelves, too, and a built-in wardrobe without a door.

Even the green-tiled, glass-doored bathroom made smart use of its space.

The double bed was fixed up against the wall, with the wall decorated in a funky London map, and the duvet neatly rolled up at the foot of the bed.

A small shelf beside the bed came in handy, as did the plug sockets there, to easily charge phones and gadgets.

The hub was the ideal place to spend a night in London, and I felt safely tucked away in my pod-like room.

It proved you don't have to sacrifice comfort to secure a bargain stay. It really is the UK's poshest Premier Inn.

■ **Rooms start from £75 a night. Visit premierinn.com for details**

FREE

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HORSE RACING TICKET GIVEAWAY with Racing TV

We are giving readers the opportunity to claim free tickets to any one of five meetings up and down the country this August.

We have teamed up with Racing TV to secure 1,000 pairs of tickets for each racecourse to give away to readers. What's more, you can claim two free tickets to your chosen event - and with kids going free, it's the perfect opportunity for a fun filled family day out this summer.

There is something for everyone. Whether you're already an avid racing fan or looking to experience the sport for the first time, you're sure to enjoy a memorable day at the races.

Racing TV is Britain and Ireland's premier horse racing channel, offering unrivalled live coverage from 35 British racecourses and 26 Irish racecourses. Members also benefit from access to more than 100 free racedays throughout the year. For more information, visit racingtv.com.

The participating race meetings for this offer are:

SANDOWN

SANDOWN
THURSDAY 6 AUGUST

KEMPTON PARK
WEDNESDAY
12 AUGUST

THIRSK
FRIDAY 14 AUGUST

CARLISLE
WEDNESDAY
19 AUGUST

STRATFORD-ON-AVON
THURSDAY
20 AUGUST

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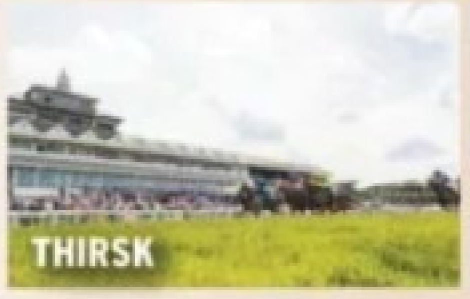
E-tickets to your chosen meeting will then be sent to you ahead of the event.

Tickets are first come first served, so don't miss out on your chance for a FREE day out at the races with Racing TV.

KEMPTON PARK



THIRSK

CARLISLE

STRATFORD-ON-AVON

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ESCAPE PLANS

Natural beauty at El Hierro

HOLDING OUT FOR A HIERRO

While Europe deals with the summer rush, there are still islands where you can avoid the tourist mob. A list of the 10 least crowded islands on the continent has been revealed by Avis.

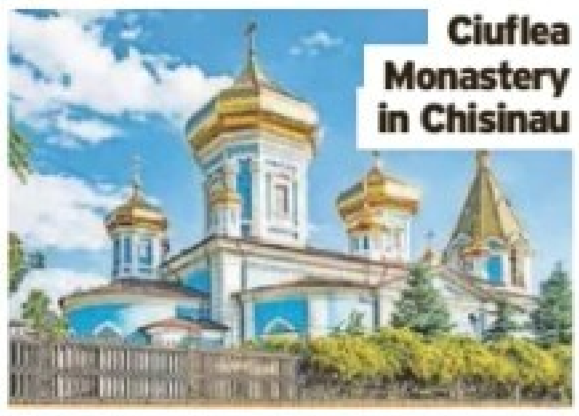
Topping the list with the highest seclusion score was one of the Canary Islands – El Hierro. The second-smallest of the Canaries welcomes only 25,000 visitors a year – compared with Tenerife's seven million.

Its perimeter can be driven around in about an hour.

It's full of natural beauty, from volcanic landscapes covered in pine trees to natural sea pools with inviting waters. Its hilly capital, Valverde, is surrounded by mountains, while El Charco Manso is one of the island's most spectacular coastlines, where the turquoise waves meet the black volcanic rocks.

There are no direct flights from the UK to El Hierro, but short connecting flights can be caught from Gran Canaria or there's a two-hour ferry from Tenerife.

Making up the rest of the list were Lesbos in Greece, Samos, Greece, La Gomera, Canary Islands, Gotland in Sweden, Korcula in Croatia, Denmark's Faroe Islands, Brac in Croatia, the Isle of Skye and La Palma in Spain.


Ciuflea Monastery in Chisinau

POP OVER TO MOLDOVA

Wizz Air will fly a new route from London Gatwick to Chisinau, Moldova from the end of October.

The new year-round route will operate four times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, taking around three hours and 20 minutes.

The city has been named as one of Eastern Europe's emerging destinations, with Wizz Air offering one-way fares from £36.99.

Nearly a third of Moldova's residents live in Chisinau, with its mixture of high-rise apartments, Soviet architecture, and unique historic buildings.

BY NATALIE KING

JESS GLASS EXPLORES THE FJORDS, GLACIERS AND ENJOYS DELICIOUS FOOD ON BOARD A CRUISE AROUND THE NORWEGIAN COAST

NORGE

BREATHTAKING: The view of the Nordfjord from the ship ahead of its arrival into Olden, Norway

CHILLING: Jess and fiancé James take a dip in Haugesund

"WOW, that's cold," my fiancé shouts as he joins me in the water just off the North Sea.

We're in Haugesund on Norway's west coast, described as 'the home' of the country and the seat of the former Viking kings.

While there are no Vikings around on this particular May afternoon, there is a gaggle of cruise ship passengers ready for a dip in the 10ºC strait, a short walk from where our ship, the Iona, has docked.

It feels far colder as I climb in with slightly nervous laughter, much to the amusement of passing tourists on the pier, but thankfully a cosy wood-fired sauna is only a short scramble up the ladder away.

Haugesund is the first of four port stops on the seven-day P&O voyage around the Norwegian fjords, where each morning brings a new, breathtaking view of the valleys formed by melting glaciers.

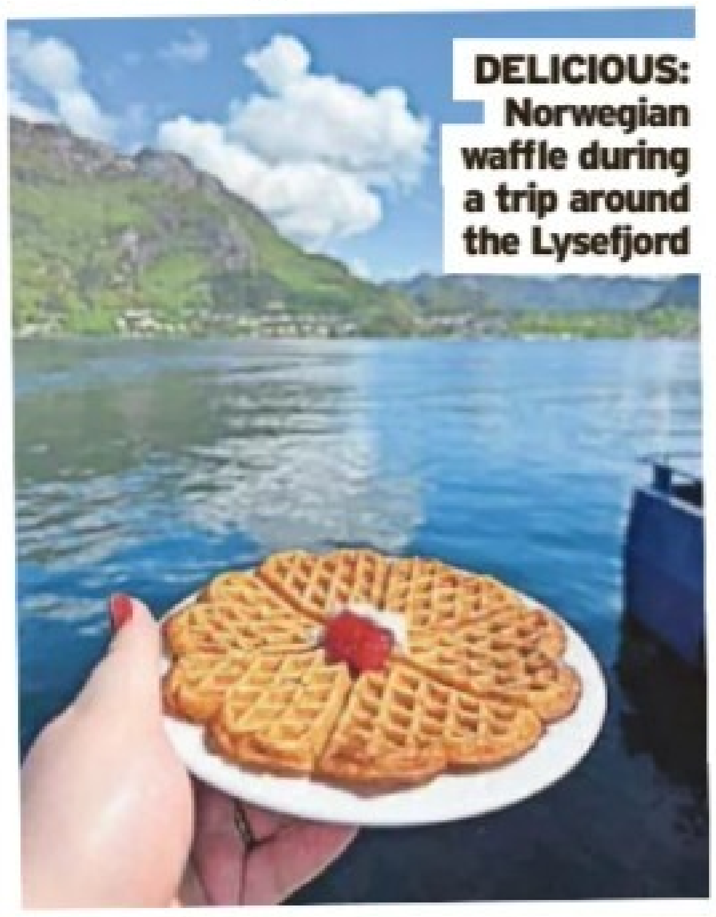
Sailing from Southampton with more than 5,000 other guests, the ship is a floating town centre in its own right at 344m in length, with 30 bars and restaurants, duty-free shops, four swimming pools and a variety of entertainment venues, including a four screen cinema.

As the ship waits in port before leaving England, my husband-to-be James and I explore and begin to learn the many tricks of being at sea – including that the colour of the lifts tells you where on the boat you are, and that both "port" and "left" have four letters, which helps us navigate our whereabouts on-board.

We find our way to our cabin for the week, a comfortable suite with a balcony looking out to sea, and a conservatory in case of rain or snow that we're fortunate enough to miss.

Although narrower than a usual hotel room, the approximately 270sqft cabin doesn't feel cramped.

There's a gentle vibration as we head through the English Channel and up the North Sea towards the Norwegian coast, with a more noticeable sway on the top decks, but once we enter calmer waters on the second day of the voyage, it's sometimes easy to forget you're not on land.


DELICIOUS: Norwegian waffle during a trip around the Lysefjord

That is, of course, until you look out of a window or stand in the ship's grand atrium and watch the endless sea, forest-filled coasts or the millennia-old towering stone on each side of a fjord.

The weather during our week is a perfect mix of sun and largely clear skies but with cooler temperatures, moving between 10-20ºC.

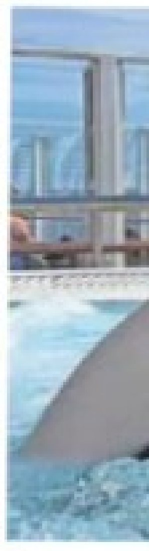
The bracing sea breezes are a welcome change from the stuffy heat of home, and make getting out of a heated pool on deck far more invigorating.

After Haugesund, we awake in our second stop, the town of Ålesund, and embark on a tour around the winding roads and art nouveau buildings, mostly built after a devastating fire in 1904.

Our guide, Sigrun, cheerfully tells us that the town's name translates to "eel-strait", adding: "The canal in our centre looks a bit like an eel, so we are very original with the names."

She later tells our group how Norway used to be a Swedish colony, "so if something goes wrong, we usually blame it on the Swedish".

EASY OPTION: The troll cars used to get to the Briksdal Glacier



> “The ship is a floating town centre in its own right at 344m in length

We also learn about the many bunkers in the town which were used in the resistance during the Nazi occupation of Norway in the Second World War, either as shortcuts or for hiding ammunition, though many have since been boarded up "to stop teenagers hiding in there to smoke".

In complete contrast to our history learnings on dry land, back on the ship I'm serenaded by Nineties pop icon Chesney Hawkes.

We're in the Limelight Club, the cosy live music venue on board, where after a three-course meal, Chesney performs superbly.

During his finale, a rendition of his 1991 hit The One and Only, Chesney approaches our table, takes my hand and sings – much to my shock and James' glee.

After recovering from my close encounter the night before, we wake before sunrise to join dozens of fellow passengers on the top deck, marvelling at the views as we approach the village of Olden, nestled deep in the heart of

WATER WAY TO TRAVEL: The infinity pool on Iona

LAST STOP: Stavanger

AHEAD

GIVE IT A WHIRL: Jess relaxing on board the ship

one of the fjords with a population of only around 600 people.

Leaving the Iona in the background, we head up to the Briksdal Glacier, where dazzlingly clear water and another astonishing view await.

As most of the group begins the hour-long hike to the top of the mountain, we opt for a lovingly named "troll car", a small green jeep that trundles up a path surrounded by lush greenery and waterfalls while saving our aching feet.

After taking many photos and indulging in some shopping at the port, we say farewell to the Olden locals who see us off, before we dress up for our evening dinner, a six-course Norwegian tasting menu.

The food in Epicurean, the ship's fine dining restaurant, includes a smoked, flaky rainbow trout and a surprising but delicious cream cheese ice cream.

As a couple with a serious nut allergy, going out to dinner anywhere can be a daunting prospect, but the staff's dedication to keeping us safe is clear throughout the journey – with a chef even making me a nut-free butter chicken to also accommodate my terrible spice tolerance.

The ease of simply waking up at your next destination still has not worn off as we arrive in our fourth and final stop of Stavanger, where we head into the city to pick through the second-hand shops of the Fargegaten, a street of rainbow-coloured buildings.

Our final excursion takes us on a small boat tour around the Lysefjord, past salmon farms and through more valleys – with a stop at a fjord-side café for Norwegian waffles with sour cream and jam.

The Iona offers plenty to do for guests of all ages. I delight in besting James repeatedly at shuffleboard, although he gets his own back at ping pong, and the occasional North Sea winds do not stop either of us from having several dips in the pools.

The sight of our disembarkation instructions on our final day is sadder than expected – we have become somewhat accustomed to the glorious views that awaited us each morning as we open the curtains.

NEED TO KNOW

- **Norwegian Fjords with P&O Cruises:** Southampton round-trip on Iona, including calls to Stavanger, Olden, Hellesylt and Haugesund, start from £779pp, based on two sharing an inside cabin, including full-board dining, live entertainment and kids' clubs.
- Book at pocruises.com

OCEAN TERMINAL

ALL ABOARD: The Iona docked in Southampton

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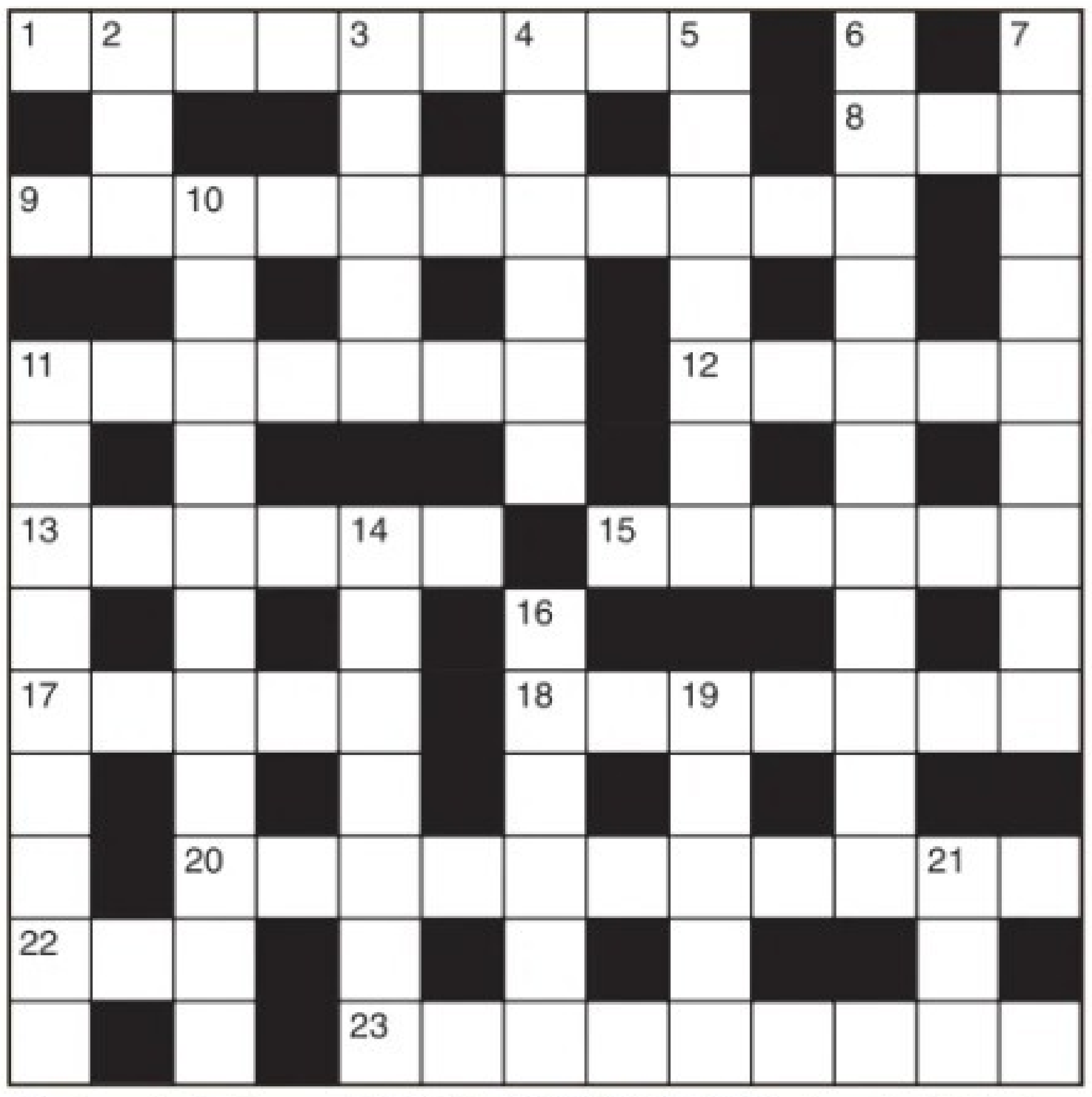
J3 Time Out

Cryptic crossword



Stuck on today's puzzle? Call **0905 789 4220** to hear individual clues or the full solution. Calls cost 80p per minute plus network access charge. Service Provider: Spoke Ltd, helpline 0333 202 3390

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS 29/07/2026

Across: 7 Runway; 8 Plaice; 10 Fragile; 11 Amend; 12 Nags; 13 Adder; 17 Denim; 18 Char; 22 Raise; 23 Headway; 24 Seaman; 25 Coffer.
Down: 1 Profane; 2 Enlarge; 3 Satin; 4 Gleaner; 5 Miner; 6 Weeds; 9 Headlight; 14 General; 15 Show off; 16 Prayers; 19 Press; 20 Final; 21 Baton.

ACROSS

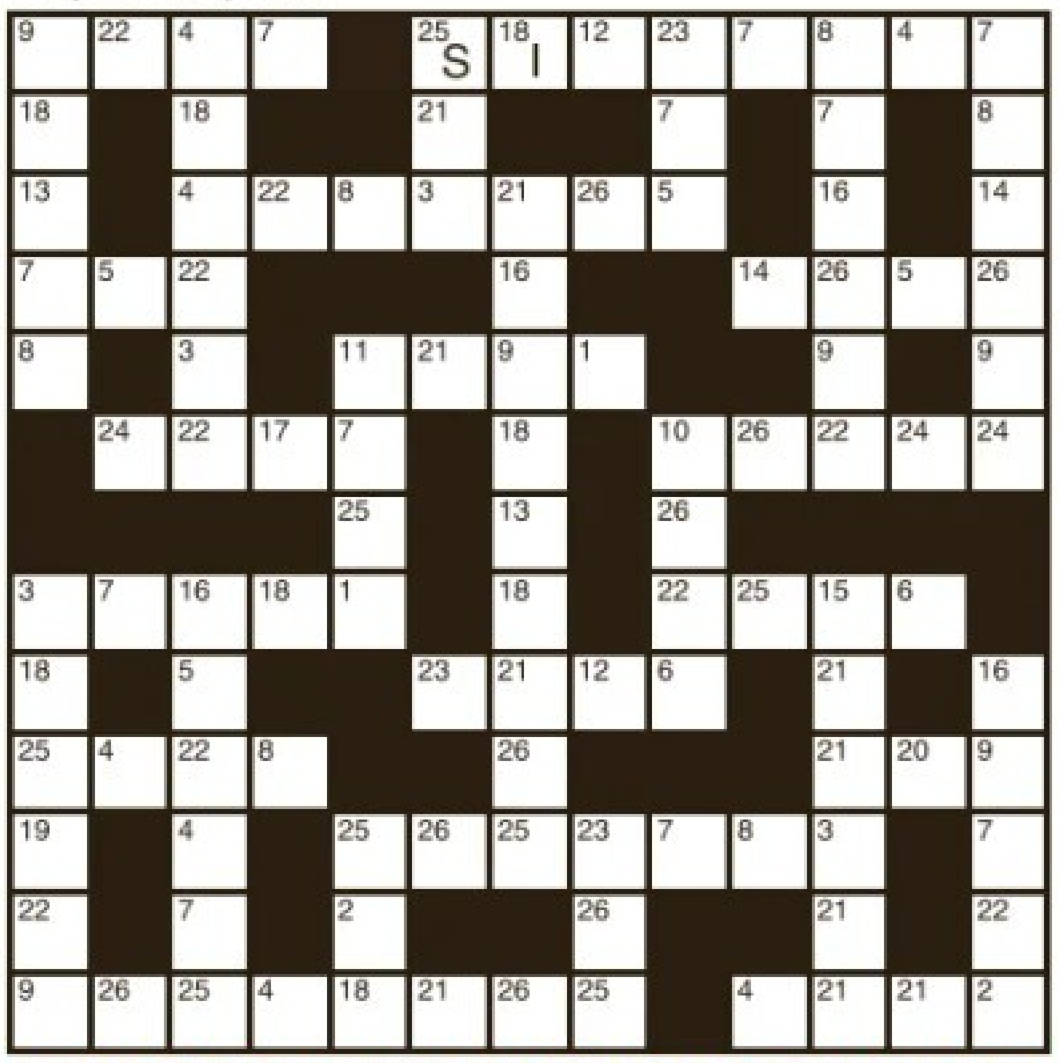
1. Strangely fine moral story, but quite beyond expression (9)
8. Would still be solitary with fifty more (3)
9. Knowledge being assembled, perhaps (3)
11. Ease the lot of about 51 with first wife (7)
12. This part of the tyre is a foot down (5)
13. Send away to cut off an appendage? (6)
15. Pay the bill and stop flitting around! (6)
17. Authoritative standards and not quite manuscript addition (5)
18. Puts some water in enclosures for mother animals (7)
20. Insurance man who ought to make more use of his pen? (11)
22. Fault-finding horse? (3)
23. In the act of employing communists (3-6)

DOWN

2. She is separate amongst women undoubtedly (3)
3. Where the blacksmith shows he's dishonest? (5)
4. They give support in pairs (6)
5. Letter taken from set pile (7)
6. The satisfaction expressed by northern campers in bed (11)
7. Top gear, as it were (4-5)
10. Come to nothing, being loud the whole of the time (4,7)
11. Turned and made superfluous (9)
14. As one with particular advantage, he's obviously not on edge (7)
16. Loved giving colour to a jollification (6)
19. Could spoil one to take on a girl (5)
21. The first woman on the night before (3)

Codeword

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter.
For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

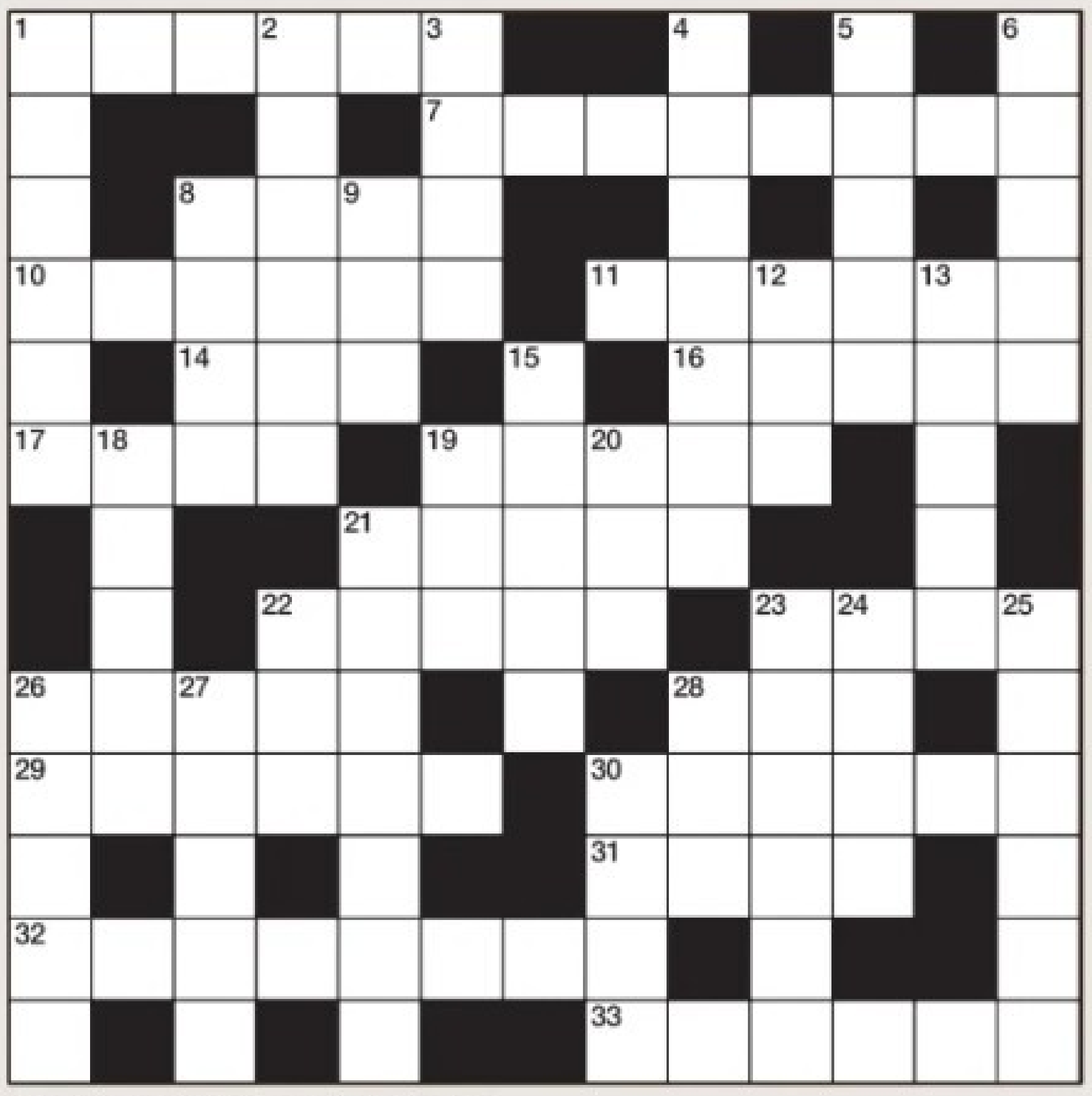
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				I							S	

Need a little help getting started? Then call **0901 293 6261** to hear four random extra letter clues. Calls cost £1 per call plus network access charge. Or text CODE and send to 64343 to receive 4 clues. Texts cost £1 per message plus standard network rate. Service Provider: Spoke Ltd, helpline 0333 202 3390

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
T	U	J	C	A	W	M	S	I	H	B	V	Q
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
G	E	R	P	K	Y	O	D	F	Z	X	N	L

Quick crossword



ACROSS

1. Christmas decoration (6)
7. Assess (8)
8. Bereavement (4)
10. Common hedge bush (6)
11. Submissive (6)
14. Encountered (3)
16. Inert gas (5)
17. Fingerprints, slang (4)
19. Very strong person (5)
21. Boy's name (5)
22. Garden plant (5)
23. Datum (4)
26. Adder (5)
28. Spicy (3)
29. Off course, wrong (6)
30. Sullen (6)
31. Dutch cheese (4)
32. Put into use (8)
33. Works dough (6)

DOWN

1. Three-legged stand (6)
2. Cookers (6)
3. For fear that (4)
4. Unplaced horse (4-3)
5. Having rabies (5)
6. __ Mirren, actress (5)
8. Arm or leg (4)
9. Harden (3)
12. Container (3)
13. Reasoned thought (5)
15. Timorous (5)
18. Stay clear of (5)
19. Gratuity (3)
20. Unit of weight (3)
21. Outside or top of an object (7)
22. Hawaiian garland (3)
23. Rummage about (6)
24. Minute particle (4)
25. Topics (6)
26. Manservant (5)
27. To clean feathers (5)
28. Carry bricks on this (3)
30. Humble (4)

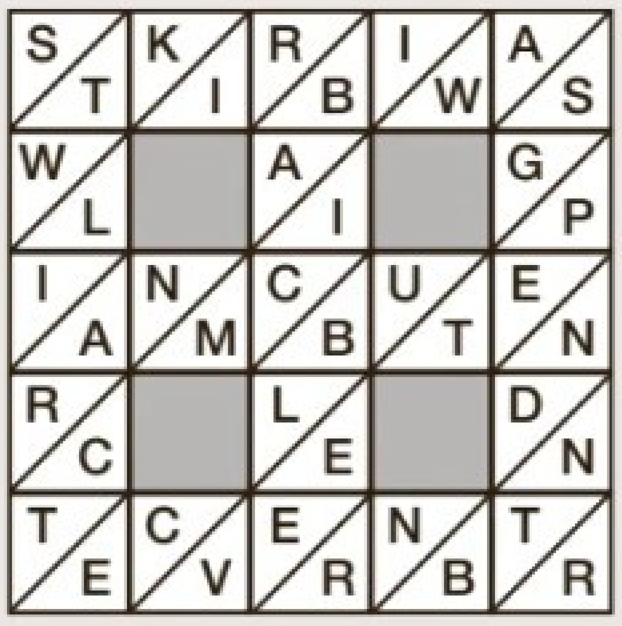
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Shear; 6 Dance; 9 Disobey; 10 Scram; 11 Sedan; 12 Peeps; 13 Lottery; 15 Per; 17 Iris; 18 Divide; 19 Adder; 20 Harare; 22 Dove; 24 Tea; 25 Capital; 26 Cider; 27 Minus; 28 Cigar; 29 Balloon; 30 Alien; 31 Beret.

Down: 2 Hector; 3 Adapts; 4 Rim; 5 Money; 6 Despair; 7 Ayes; 8 Ceased; 12 Pride; 13 Light; 14 Tiara; 15 Pivot; 16 Revel; 18 Debar; 19 Artisan; 21 Aerial; 22 Divine; 23 Vacate; 25 Cello; 26 Cube; 28 Cob.

Split Decision

Cross out one of the two letters in each divided square to reveal a completed crossword grid.



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

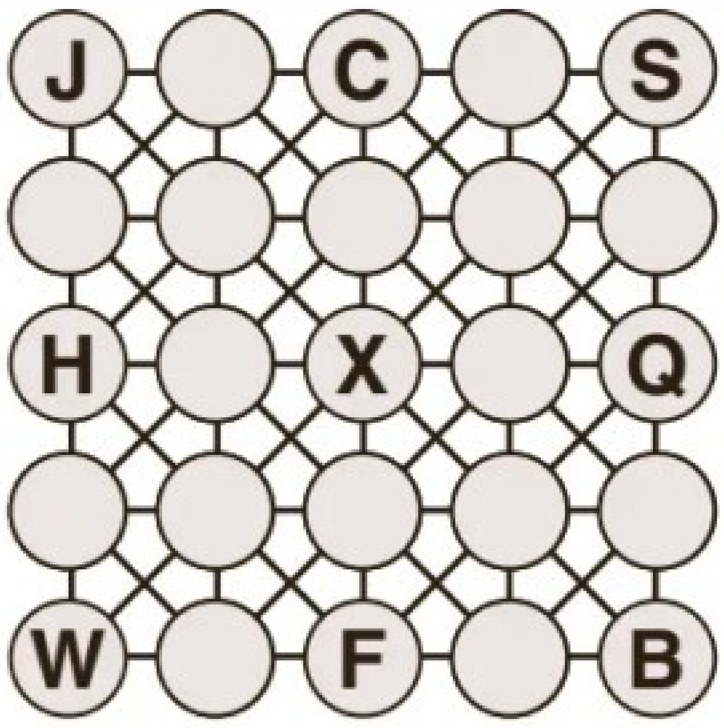
U	N	C	U	T
S		H		H
U	N	I	T	E
R		P		R
P	A	S	T	E

Gogen

Insert letters to form the listed words, moving between adjacent cells horizontally, vertically or diagonally in any direction.

Insert all the remaining letters of the alphabet (except Z) in the grid so all the listed words are spelt out in this way.

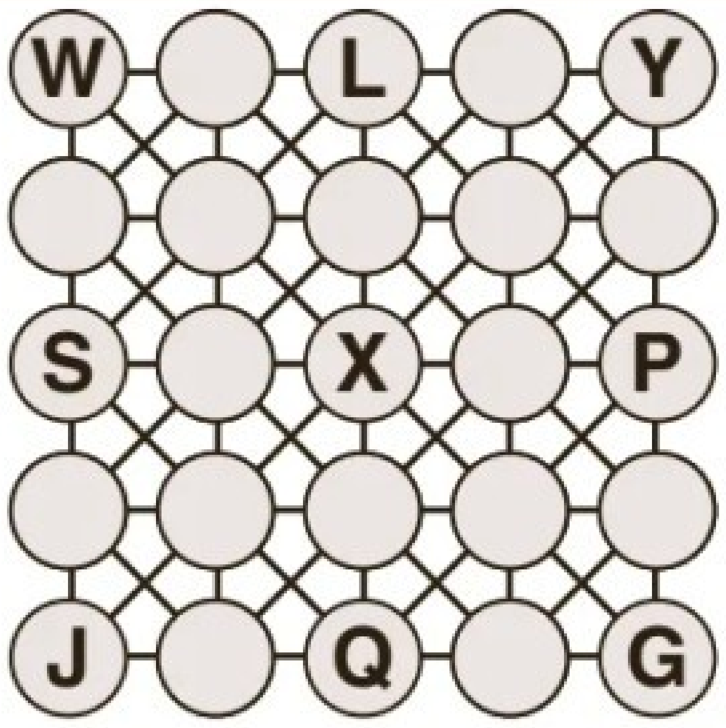
1



BUNK
DATING
GLEN
HAVOC
JOKE
MIX
PORK
SEQUIN
TINY
WAIF

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y

2



BALMY
BARKED
CHUG
EQUIP
FIX
JEST
LARCH
VOICE
WAVING

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Q	S	H	Y	J
T	U	V	I	G
D	A	W	N	X
L	R	O	E	F
B	K	P	C	M

L	Y	P	B	X
D	A	T	E	C
S	I	N	K	H
M	U	V	O	W
Q	F	G	R	J

Sudoku

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box.

EASY

	9		7		6		8	
8		6		9		7		3
	7	4		2		1	6	
2								4
	8	7				3	2	
3								5
	3	2		1		4	9	
7		1		3		6		8
	5		6		4		3	

HARD

6		1			5			
			6		1			
2		8				1		
	4			1			8	3
			3		7			
3	1			6			7	
		2				3		9
			9		6			
			8			4		2

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU: Easy

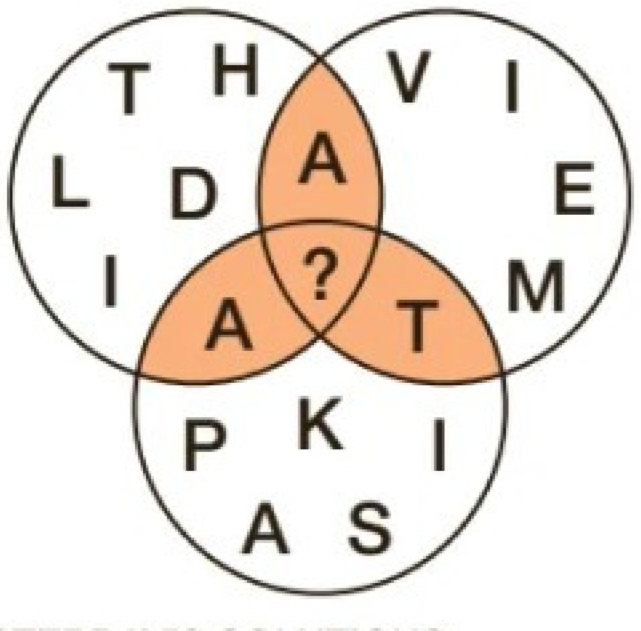
3	5	6	9	1	2	7	4	8
9	8	1	5	4	7	2	6	3
4	7	2	6	8	3	1	5	9
7	1	4	8	5	9	3	2	6
5	9	3	2	6	4	8	1	7
6	2	8	3	7	1	5	9	4
2	4	7	1	3	6	9	8	5
8	6	9	7	2	5	4	3	1
1	3	5	4	9	8	6	7	2

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU: Hard

2	5	3	7	9	8	4	1	6
6	4	9	2	1	5	8	7	3
7	8	1	4	3	6	5	2	9
3	9	4	8	5	2	7	6	1
5	7	2	3	6	1	9	8	4
1	6	8	9	7	4	2	3	5
9	3	6	5	2	7	1	4	8
8	2	5	1	4	3	6	9	7
4	1	7	6	8	9	3	5	2

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within the circle can be rearranged to form words with a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

The letter represented by the question mark is C. Electro, Calypso, Country, all genres of music.

Alphamuddle

Rearrange the letters in the top grid to make five words that read both across and down. Five letters have been placed in the bottom grid to start you off.

D	A	S	S	Y
T	A	S	T	E
S	O	R	R	I
S	A	V	V	Y
E	R	O	R	T

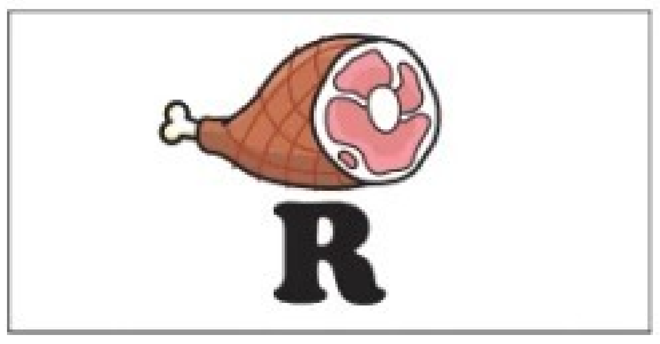
		E		
				R
	S			
R				
			S	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

F	O	A	M	S
O	N	S	E	T
A	S	I	D	E
M	E	D	I	A
S	T	E	A	L

DINGBATS®

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.dingbats.net

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION: Tennis shoes

Wordsquare

Find as many words as possible using the letters in the grid. Each word must use the central letter and at least 3 others, and letters may be used only once. You cannot use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns, but verb forms ending in 's' are permitted. There is one 9-letter word to be found.

O	U	T
S	M	C
E	I	R

HOW YOU RATE

35 Good; 45 Very Good; 60 Excellent.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

SECRETIVE

civet, ever, evert, everts, evict, evicts, receive, receives, reeve, reeves, restive, revet, revets, revise, revs, rive, rives, rivet, rivets, secretive, serve, service, sever, severe, sieve, steeve, stiver, strive, veer, veers, veriest, verse, vert, vest, vets, vice, vices, vier, vies.

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

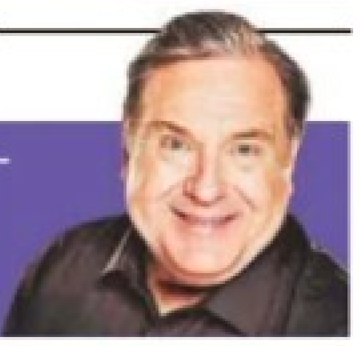
41289127 gives a Chinese city;
37237 gives an American city;
285673 gives an Irish county.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION: CREMATING

29/07/2026

RUSSELL GRANT



ARIES
March 21-April 20

There's a playful, romantic energy around, and it's far too good to waste. Say yes to laughter, creativity and mischief. That said, don't ignore small irritations at work or in your routine - they'll only grow if left alone. A simple conversation can smooth things out. Stay open to different views. Someone else's idea might lead you somewhere surprisingly rewarding.

For more call 0905 789 4271 (80p/min + network access charge)

TAURUS
April 21-May 21

You're balancing comfort with ambition, and neither is willing to budge. Good. It's time to decide what matters. Home life offers a grounding feeling while career goals push you forward. You don't have to choose one over the other, but you do need a better balance. Romance feels lighter, even playful. A little joy goes a long way today.

For more call 0905 789 4272 (80p/min + network access charge)

GEMINI
May 22-June 21

Your mind is stretching in new directions, and it suits you. Conversations, travel plans, or fresh ideas bring welcome expansion. Still, emotions may run close to the surface in relationships, so don't dodge what needs to be said. Honesty clears up far more than clever avoidance will. Try something different - you'll enjoy the shift.

For more call 0905 789 4273 (80p/min + network access charge)

CANCER
June 22-July 23

Emotions are rising, but they're not here to cause chaos - they're here to clarify. Something that's been simmering, especially in a close relationship, needs to be addressed. Handle it gently, but don't avoid it. Financial or personal values may come into focus, asking for a rethink. Take your time. When you are honest, everything else starts to fall into place.

For more call 0905 789 4274 (80p/min + network access charge)

LEO
July 24-Aug 23

Relationships take centre stage, and they're asking for honesty, not performance. You're learning something about balance -what you give versus what you receive. Conversations could go deep, so stay present not defensive. There's real strength in listening. When you align your needs with someone else's, things begin to flow more smoothly.

For more call 0905 789 4275 (80p/min + network access charge)

VIRGO
Aug 24-Sept 23

You're in a thoughtful mood, reflecting on work, health, and the structure of daily life. Good. Something needs adjusting, and you can feel it. Don't ignore your wellbeing while chasing productivity - it's not sustainable. Relationships may feel intense, but they also offer growth. Use your calm, steady approach to bring clarity where things feel uncertain.

For more call 0905 789 4276 (80p/min + network access charge)

LIBRA
Sept 24-Oct 23

Creativity and connection light up your day, bringing a welcome lift. Friends or social plans could inspire you in ways you didn't expect. Still, emotions may run high in romance, so keep things grounded. Don't overpromise or read too much into feelings. Enjoy what's here now. When you stay present, the right opportunities naturally unfold.

For more call 0905 789 4277 (80p/min + network access charge)

SCORPIO
Oct 24-Nov 22

Work and home are pulling at you from opposite directions, and neither is subtle about it. Instead of choosing sides, look for a way to integrate both. A conversation about future plans could shift something important in a relationship. Tension isn't the enemy here - it's a signal. Pay attention to it, and you'll uncover something genuinely useful.

For more call 0905 789 4278 (80p/min + network access charge)

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23-Dec 21

Your thoughts are buzzing, and not all of them agree with each other. That's fine, it means you're growing. Conversations that challenge your perspective are especially valuable, even if they feel uncomfortable at first. In love, clarity matters more than charm. Say what you mean. A new idea or experience could bring a refreshing sense of direction.

For more call 0905 789 4279 (80p/min + network access charge)

CAPRICORN
Dec 22-Jan 20

Money, values, and emotional security are all under the spotlight. You're being asked to look honestly at what you rely on - and whether it still works. A conversation could reveal more than expected, strengthening a bond or shifting it. Stay grounded, but don't resist change. You're building something more stable, even if it feels uncertain right now.

For more call 0905 789 4280 (80p/min + network access charge)

AQUARIUS
Jan 21-Feb 19

Relationships are intense today, but in a way that can lead to real growth. You're seeing more clearly how your needs fit--or clash--with someone else's. Don't avoid that insight. Speak honestly, even if it feels awkward. Creativity is also flowing, offering a welcome outlet. When you express yourself openly, connections deepen naturally.

For more call 0905 789 4281 (80p/min + network access charge)

PISCES
Feb 20-Mar 20

There is a sense of clarity, especially around daily life and responsibilities. You're seeing what works and what doesn't - and that's powerful. Relationships may require a bit of patience, particularly when emotions run high. Don't rush to fix everything. Let go of what no longer supports you, and you'll create space for something far better.

For more call 0905 789 4282 (80p/min + network access charge)

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge - maximum of 5 minutes duration. You must be over 18 and have the bill payer's permission. Service provider Spoke. Helpline 0333 202 3390

WEDNESDAY'S TV

DAYTIME

BBC1

The Travelling Auctioneers, 4.30pm

6.00 Breakfast 9.30 Animal Park 10.15 Trace, Track, Get My Car Back 10.45 Expert Witness 11.15 Homes Under the Hammer 12.15 Bargain Hunt Eric Knowles presents the show from Kingston upon Thames in Surrey. **1.00 BBC News at One; Weather 1.35 BBC Regional News and Weather 1.45 BBC News at One; Weather 2.00 Money for Nothing 2.45 Escape to the Country** Nicki Chapman helps two rock musicians find an Oxfordshire home. **3.45 The Bidding Room 4.30 The Travelling Auctioneers 5.15 Pointless 6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather 6.30 BBC Regional News and Weather**

BBC2

The Gunpowder Plot: Lucy Worsley Investigates, 9pm

6.30 Money for Nothing 7.15 The Bidding Room 8.00 Sign Zone: Great Japanese Railway Journeys 8.30 Sign Zone: Great Continental Railway Journeys 9.00 BBC News 1.00 Richard Osman's House of Games 1.30 The Finish Line 2.15 Lightning 2.45 The Hairy Bikers' Bakeation Si King and Dave Myers bake their way across Germany. **3.45 The Farmers' Country Showdown 4.15 Earth from Space 5.15 Flog It! 6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games** With Karen Hauer, Storm Huntley, Joe Marler and Tom Read Wilson. **6.30 Just One Thing** Roman Kemp helps a children's entertainer to get a good night's sleep.

ITV1

Tipping Point: Best Ever Finals, 4.30pm

6.00 Good Morning Britain 10.00 This Morning 1.00 ITV Lunchtime News; Weather 1.20 Local News; Weather 1.30 ITV Racing: Glorious Goodwood Ed Chamberlin and Francesca Cumani present coverage of day two of the meeting, including feature race the Sussex Stakes, and four more supporting races. **4.29 ITV Local Weather 4.30 Tipping Point: Best Ever Finals** More of the most dramatic endgames from the arcade-themed quiz show hosted by Ben Shephard, as players take on the machine for its £10,000 jackpot. **5.00 The Chase** Ellen, Ben, Dan and Ange compete. **6.00 Local News; Weather 6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather**

CHANNEL 4

Countdown, 2.10pm

6.25 Cheers 6.50 Cheers 7.15 Cheers 7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond 8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond 8.40 Everybody Loves Raymond 9.10 Frasier 9.40 Frasier 10.10 Frasier 10.40 Frasier 11.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA 12.05 Channel 4 News Summary 12.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It Henry Cole and Simon O'Brien head to Dumfries and Galloway. **1.10 The Great House Giveaway** An electrician and an estate agent buy a property together in Rugby. **2.10 Countdown 3.00 A Place in the Sun 4.00 Narrow Escapes 5.00 Chateau DIY 6.00 American Pickers** Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz find a classic 33 Ford.

5

Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts, 8pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 Jeremy Vine The broadcaster discusses the issues of the day. **11.30 Storm & Alexis** Discussion and debate. **12.45 5 News at Lunchtime 12.50 Matt Allwright** Debate on the day's biggest stories. **2.20 FILM Memories of Murder (2023) (12)** Thriller, starring Andrea Bogart. **4.00 Castle** A mysterious gunman takes subway passengers hostage. **4.55 Love Nature** A story of nature helping itself in the context of climate change. **5.00 5 News with Dan Walker 6.00 Malta: The Jewel of the Med** Cameras explore Malta's olive groves, and one of the country's stately homes. **6.55 5 News Update**

	BBC1	BBC2	ITV1	CHANNEL 4	5
7	7.00 **The One Show** Presented by Alex Jones and Vernon Kay. (S) 7.30 **EastEnders** Gray continues to manipulate Sheila. (S)	7.00 **Celebrity Antiques Road Trip** 5/20. John Bercow and Sally Gunnell take on the challenge. (S) (R)	7.30 **Deal or No Deal: Banker's Best Battles** Stephen Mulhern looks back at the battles between Claire and Leon and the Banker. (S)	7.00 **Channel 4 News** (S)	7.00 **Car Pound Cops** 5/8. A quad-bike rider is flagged down. (S) (R) 7.55 **5 News Update** (S)
8	8.00 **The Repair Shop** 15/25. The experts restore a mandriola, two chairs, a pilot's cap and a pinball machine. (S) (R)	8.00 **Saving Lives at Sea** 4/10. The Newhaven crew make a desperate attempt to rescue a yachtsman. (S) (R)	8.00 **Emmerdale** Joe unsettles everyone by calling an impromptu lunch. (S) 8.30 **Coronation Street** A family celebration for Ross's birthday proves too much for Cassie to bear. (S)	8.00 **Extraordinary Extensions** New series. A couple transform their west London home into a Great Gatsby-inspired palace. (S)	8.00 **Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts** Paramedics rush in 71-year-old struggling to breathe. (S)
9	9.00 **Murder 24/7** 4/8. The investigation into a fatal stabbing in Worcestershire. (S)	9.00 **The Gunpowder Plot: Lucy Worsley Investigates** 2/4. Investigating the plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament. (S) (R)	9.00 **Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?** Big-prize quiz, hosted by Jeremy Clarkson. (S) (R)	9.00 **The Undeclared War** 4/6. Danny is worried about Barbara's erratic behaviour. (S)	9.00 **The Crow Girl** 6/6. As Jeanette manages the fallout from Lou's actions, Victoria seeks revenge. Last in the series. (S)
10	10.00 **BBC News at Ten** (S) 10.30 **BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) 10.40 **FILM Eye in the Sky (2015). (15)** Thriller, starring Helen Mirren. (S)	10.00 **Inside No 9** 2/6. Alan arrives to teach at a small school in rural Wales, but finds himself overshadowed. (S) (R) 10.30 **Newsnight;** (S) Weather (S)	10.00 **ITV News at Ten; Weather** (S) 10.30 **Local News; Weather** (S) 10.45 **FILM Live and Let Die (1973). (PG)** James Bond adventure, starring Roger Moore. (S)	10.00 **24 Hours in A&E** 7/7. Sara attends with serious head and chest injuries. (S) (R)	10.00 **Commonwealth Games 2026** Highlights from the sixth day in Glasgow. (S)
11		11.00 **Uncanny** 2/3. The case of a man who believes his house was haunted by an entity. (S) (R)		11.05 **24 Hours in A&E** A 23-year-old woman has had a riding accident. (S) (R)	11.05 **Cause of Death** 7/10. Lancashire Coroner's officers investigate the death of a 63-year-old man. (S) (R)
AFTER 12	**12.15 The Hit List Celebrity Special** With La Voix , Jenny Ryan, Rav Wilding, Chesney Hawkes, Fatiha El-Ghorri and Harriet Kemsley. **1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead** A look ahead to the latest forecast. **1.05 BBC News**	**12.00 The Devil in the Family: The Fall of Ruby Franke 12.55 Sign Zone: Do You Know Your Place? 1.25 Sign Zone: Scamanda 2.05 Sign Zone: The Rapture** Psychological thriller, starring Ruth Madeley. **3.05 This Is BBC Two**	**1.05 Shop on TV 3.00 Love & Death 4.00 Inside the Langham: Britain's First Grand Hotel 4.25 Unwind with ITV** Daily escape designed to calm the mind and encourage relaxation and reflection. **5.35 Tom Kerridge Cooks Italy**	**12.05 Murder Case: The Digital Detectives 1.00 Dover 24/7: Britain's Busiest Port 1.55 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA 2.50 Britain's Most Expensive Houses 3.45 Grand Designs 4.40 Couples Come Dine with Me 5.35 Sunday Brunch 5.45 Countdown**	**12.05 A&E After Dark 1.00 Cruise TV with LoveitBookit 2.00 Shoplifters: Catch Me If You Can 2.50 Malta: The Jewel of the Med 3.45 Friends 4.10 Friends 4.35 The Highland Vet 5.25 Entertainment News on 5 5.35 Milo 5.45 The Adventures of Paddington**

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UNCOMMON HOLIDAYS

WEDNESDAY'S TV

FREEVIEW AND SATELLITE

U&Gold SKY: 110

6.00 Teleshopping 7.05 Don't Wait Up 7.45 Dad 8.20 Only Fools and Horses 9.00 The Green Green Grass 9.40 Are You Being Served? 10.20 Last of the Summer Wine 11.40 Dad 12.20 Only Fools and Horses 1.00 Keeping Up Appearances 1.40 Dad's Army 2.20 The Green Green Grass 3.00 Are You Being Served? 3.40 Dad 4.20 Dad's Army 5.00 Last of the Summer Wine 6.20 Keeping Up Appearances Hyacinth agrees to meet the Ladies' Luncheon Club's VIP at the railway station.

7.00 **Porridge** Fletcher helps new inmate Godber settle in. (S)
7.40 **Dad's Army** The platoon competes for the honour of guarding Winston Churchill. (S)
8.20 **Are You Being Served?** The staff are transferred to the toy department. (S)
9.00 **The Office** A work experience trainee has a baptism of fire. (S)
9.40 **Porridge** Fletcher and Godber while away a long night. (S)
10.20 **Not Going Out** A death brings Tim and Kate closer. (S)
11.00 **Mrs Brown's Boys** Dermot announces his choice of best man for the wedding. (S)
11.40 **Colin's Sandwich** Colin tries to hold in his inner child when he attends a wedding. (S)

12.20 The Office (S) **1.00 Porridge** (S) **1.40 Mrs Brown's Boys** (S) **2.30 Not Going Out** (S) **3.00 Colin's Sandwich** (S) **3.30 Toast of London** (S) **4.00 Teleshopping**

U&Dave SKY: 111 FV: 19

6.00 Teleshopping 7.25 Top Gear 8.20 Border Force: America's Gatekeepers 10.20 Rick Stein's Long Weekends 11.20 Yukon Gold 12.20 Top Gear 2.20 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing 3.00 Robson Green: World's Most Amazing Walks 4.00 Rick Stein's Long Weekends 6.00 The Hairy Bikers: Mums Know Best Recipes inspired by international cuisine.

7.00 **Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing** Paul and Bob fish the river Wensum in Norfolk for roach. (S)
7.40 **Would I Lie to You?** With Bill Oddie, Frank Skinner, Jon Richardson and Sarah Millican. (S)
8.20 **Would I Lie to You?** With Mackenzie Crook, Chris Packham, Victoria Coren Mitchell and Rhod Gilbert. (S)
9.00 **QI XL** Extended edition. With Josh Widdicombe, Jo Brand and Phill Jupitus. (S)
10.00 **Have I Got a Bit More News for You** Jo Brand hosts, with panellists Rylan and Robert Peston. (S)
11.00 **Taskmaster** With Dave Gorman, Al Murray, Rob Beckett, Sara Pascoe and Paul Chowdhry. (S)

12.00 Mock the Week (S) **12.40 Would I Lie to You?** (S) **2.00 QI XL** (S) **3.00 Taskmaster** (S) **4.00 Teleshopping**

U&Yesterday SKY: 155 FV: 27

6.10 Abandoned Engineering 8.00 Bangers & Cash 10.00 Secret Nazi Bases 11.00 World War Two from Above 12.00 Antiques Roadshow 2.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics 4.00 Secret Nazi Bases 5.00 World War Two from Above 6.00 Antiques Roadshow From Castle Coole, near Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh.

7.00 **Asia** The wildlife of Asia's forests. (S)
8.00 **Explore** Simon Reeve visits the Philippines. (S)
9.00 **Simon Reeve's South America** Simon travels through Brazil. (S)
10.00 **Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics** The team pay over the odds for a VW Campervan, but can they hope to break even at auction. (S)
11.00 **Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics** A 1969 Morris Mini Cooper MkII is totally restored by specialists. (S)

12.00 Bangers & Cash (S) **1.00 Find It, Fix It, Flog It** (S) **2.00 Great British Railway Journeys** (S) **3.00 Teleshopping**

U&Drama SKY: 143 FV: 20

6.00 Teleshopping 7.20 The Bill 8.15 Doctors 9.30 Classic Holby City 10.45 Casualty 11.45 The Bill 12.50 Classic EastEnders 2.00 Neighbours 3.00 Pie in the Sky 4.05 Lovejoy 5.20 Waiting for God 6.00 Last of the Summer Wine

7.20 **Last of the Summer Wine** Pearl throws Howard out of the house. (S)
8.00 **Sister Boniface Mysteries** A death occurs at the local talent show. (S)
9.00 **The Chelsea Detective** A psychotherapist is murdered during a video call. (S)
10.00 **New Tricks** Brian enters an addiction centre run by monks. (S)
11.00 **Silent Witness** Feature-length episode. A death is linked to the disappearance of a teenager. (S)

1.35 Lovejoy (S) **2.30 Waiting for God** (S) **3.00 Darby and Joan** (S) **4.00 Teleshopping**

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 **Great British Railway Journeys** Michael Portillo travels to Uttoxeter from Liverpool. (S)
7.30 **Walking with Jim Moir** The comedian explores the Kent coast. (S)
8.00 **The Treasures of Ancient Rome** Alastair Sooke explores the artistic achievements of the Romans. (S)
9.00 **Caligula with Mary Beard** The life of the Roman emperor. (S)
10.00 **Sir Derek Jacobi Remembers — I, Claudius** The veteran actor looks back at the 1970s drama. (S)
10.15 **I, Claudius** Acclaimed drama about the Roman emperors. (S)
11.55 **I, Claudius** Augustus refuses to forgive Tiberius. (S)

12.45 The Treasures of Ancient Rome (S) **1.45 Caligula with Mary Beard** (S) **2.45 Great British Railway Journeys** (S) **3.15 Walking with Jim Moir** (S) **3.45 Close**

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 Backyard Builds 6.30 Deal or No Deal 7.30 Dress to Impress 8.25 Olivia and Alex: Parenthood 9.30 The Only Way Is Essex 10.25 The Real Housewives of Salt Lake City 11.20 The Real Housewives of Orange County 12.15 Dinner Date 1.15 Supermarket Sweep 2.15 The Floor USA 3.10 The Only Way Is Essex 4.10 The Real Housewives of Salt Lake City 5.00 The Real Housewives of Orange County 6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase Mark Charnock, Kerry Godliman and Janet Street-Porter compete.

7.00 **The Floor USA** Rob Lowe hosts the American version of the dramatic and fast-paced game show. (S)
8.00 **The 1% Club** Quiz, hosted by Lee Mack. (S)
9.00 **The Princess Diaries** Princess takes her mum glamping. Junior reveals childhood secrets to his dad. (S)
10.00 **Family Guy** Joe decides to get a leg transplant. (S)
10.30 **Family Guy** Part one of two. Stewie decides to murder Lois. (S)
11.00 **Family Guy** Meg becomes obsessed with Brian after he accompanies her to the junior prom. (S)
11.30 **American Dad!** Principal Lewis, Roger and Jeff decide to go skiing. (S)

12.05 American Dad! (S) **12.35 Bob's Burgers** (S) **1.30 G'wed** (S) **2.30 Unwind with ITV** (S) **3.00 Teleshopping**

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 George and Mildred 7.05 Classic Emmerdale 8.05 Classic Coronation Street 9.10 A Touch of Frost 11.20 Heartbeat 1.30 Midsomer Murders 3.30 Classic Emmerdale 4.40 Classic Coronation Street 5.50 Heartbeat

8.00 **Midsomer Murders** A magician becomes the prime suspect when his assistant drops dead on stage, poisoned by the toxins from a tropical frog. Starring John Nettles and Ronald Pickup. (S)
10.00 **Grantchester** The village is rocked by a series of armed robberies. (S)
11.00 **Grantchester** Geordie investigates the suspicious death of a factory worker. (S)
11.50 **Trial & Retribution** Conclusion. The mysterious man contacts Susan. (S)

1.25 Wycliffe (S) **2.25 Unwind with ITV** (S) **2.30 Teleshopping**

ITV4 SKY: 120 FV: 26

6.00 Magnum, PI 8.05 Dempsey and Makepeace 9.05 Boon 10.10 The Champions 11.20 Robin of Sherwood 12.25 Magnum, PI 2.35 Dempsey and Makepeace 3.45 Boon 4.50 The Professionals 5.55 Minder Arthur's wine supplier is mugged.

7.00 **King of the Roads** Southern 100 action from the Isle of Man. (S)
8.00 **Goodwood Festival of Speed** Highlights of the motoring event. (S)
9.00 FILM **The Long Good Friday (1980). (18)** Thriller, starring Bob Hoskins. (S)
11.25 **All Elite Wrestling: Collision** Hard-hitting action. (S)

1.15 BattleBots (S) **2.15 River Monsters** (S) **2.40 Unwind with ITV** (S) **3.00 Teleshopping** (S) **3.30 Motorsport Mundial** (S) **4.00 Teleshopping** (S)

(R) repeat, (S) subtitles

RADIO

RADIO 1
97.6-99.8 FM

5.00 Radio 1 Early Breakfast with Dean McCullough. **6.58** Newsbeat. **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James. **10.30** Newsbeat. **11.00** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie. **12.45** Newsbeat. **1.00** Matt and Jerry. **3.30** Newsbeat. **3.33** Going Home with Vick, Katie and Jamie on Radio 1. **5.45** Newsbeat. **6.00** Radio 1's New Music Show with Jack Saunders. **8.00** Radio 1's Future Pop with Jodie Bryant. Future pop classics, right now with Jodie Bryant. Produced by Audio Always for BBC Radio 1. **10.00** Radio 1's Power Down Playlist with Sian Eleri. **11.00** Benji B. **1.00** Radio 1 Dance Presents. **2.00** Radio 1 Anthems. **4.00** Radio 1 Pop Anthems.

RADIO 2
88-90.2 FM

6.30 The Sara Cox Breakfast Show. **9.30** Vernon Kay. **12.00** Jeremy Vine. **2.00** DJ Spoony. **4.00** Angela Scanlon. **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist. **7.30** Jo Whiley. **9.00** The Folk Show with Michael Sheen. The actor sits in to share his love of folk and acoustic music. **10.00** The Good Groove with Melvin Odoom. **12.00** OJ Borg. **3.00** Sounds of the 90s with Fearne Cotton. **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans.

RADIO 3
90.2-92.4 FM

6.30 Breakfast. Al Ryan presents Radio 3's classical breakfast show. **9.30** Essential Classics. Georgia Mann plays a selection of music and features. **1.00** Classical Live. Highlights from the 2026 BBC Proms, including Strauss' Death and Transfiguration. **3.00** Choral Evensong. Live from Gloucester Cathedral during the Three Choirs Festival. **4.00** Composer of the Week: Alice Mary Smith. Donald Macleod surveys some of Alice Mary Smith's compositional collaborations. **5.00** In Tune. Dr Gary Crosby and members of Tomorrow's Warriors perform. **7.00** BBC Proms 2026. The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra perform Elgar, Weir and Dean. **10.00** Night Tracks. Sara Mohr-Pietsch presents a soundtrack for late-night listening. **11.30** 'Round Midnight. Soweto Kinch hears from Estonian pianist Britta Virves. **12.30** Through the Night.

RADIO 4
92.4-94.6 FM

5.00 News Summary. **5.04** BBC Inside Science. Tom Whipple examines screening for testosterone deficiency. **5.32** Weather. **5.34** Shipping Forecast. **5.43** Prayer for the Day. **5.45** Farming Today. Countryside stories. **6.00** Today. With Jonny Dymond and Amol Rajan. **9.00** Sideways. Author Matthew Syed explores the ideas that shape individuals' lives. **9.30** Breakin' the Cycle. New series. Lewis Albrow tells the story of two London gangsters-turned-film producers. **10.00** Woman's Hour. Presented by Nuala McGovern. **11.00** Floor 15. Fergus Walsh follows experimental clinical trials at Guy's Hospital. **11.40** This Week in History. **11.45** Book of the Week: Confessions of a Performative Male. By Darren McGarvey. **12.00** News. **12.04** You and Yours. Consumer affairs. **12.57** Weather. **1.00** The World at One. Current affairs with Sarah Montague. **1.45** Dead Rabbit. Dan Ashby and Lucy Taylor confront the crime groups that have taken over hare coursing. **2.00** The Archers. There's an awkward moment for Alice. **2.15** Drama: United Kingdoms. Compilation of five short plays on the theme of Sheltering. **3.00** Money Box. The latest from the world of personal finance. **3.30** A Map of the Moon. Siddharth Khajuria examines maps of the moon. **4.00** The Power of Guilt. Dave struggles to face up to what he's done. **4.15** The Media Show. The latest news from the fast-changing media world. **5.00** PM. News headlines with Evan Davis. **5.57** Weather. **6.00** Six O'Clock News. **6.30** Best Medicine. New series. Kiri Pritchard-McLean and guests celebrate medicine. **7.00** The Archers. Chris takes things too far. **7.15** Front Row. Arts programme. **8.00** AntiSocial. The issues of the day, presented by Adam Fleming. **8.45** Café Hope. How one man has founded an inclusive community of running mates. **9.00** Invisible Hands. The story of the man who made America into a superpower. **9.30** Inside Health. Weekly quest to demystify health issues. **9.59** Weather. **10.00** The World Tonight. News round-up with James Coomarasamy. **10.45** Wild Dark Shore. By Charlotte McConaghy. **11.00** Sunil Patel: An Idiot's Guide to Living Forever. Sunil starts a brand new religion. **11.15** Follow the Rabbit. Podcaster Chris meets a hoarder claiming a poltergeist tidied her house. **11.30** A Good Read. With poet Patience Agbabi and writer Andy Miller. **12.00** News and Weather. **12.30** Book of the Week: Confessions of a Performative Male. **12.48** Shipping Forecast. **1.00** As BBC World Service.

RADIO 5 LIVE
693 & 909 MW

5.00 Wake Up to Money. **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast. **9.00** Nicky Campbell. **11.00** Naga Munchetty. **2.00** Matt Chorley. **4.00** 5 Live Drive. **7.00** Glasgow 2026. **10.00** Qasa Alom. **1.00** Dotun Adebayo.

TALKSPORT
1053 & 1089 MW

5.00 Early Sports Breakfast. **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast. **10.00** Adam Catterall & Darragh McAnthony. **1.00** Olly Clink & Charlie Baker. **4.00** talkSPORT Drive. **7.00** The Transfer Insiders. **10.00** The Sports Bar. **1.00** Extra Time with Paul Ross.

CLASSIC FM
100-102 FM

6.30 Classic FM Breakfast with Dan Walker. **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour with Dan Walker. **10.00** Aled Jones. **1.00** Anne-Marie Minhall. **4.00** Margherita Taylor. **7.00** Relaxing Evenings with Zeb Soanes. **9.00** Classic FM's Composer Carousel With Zeb Soanes. Today's focus is Italian composer and pianist, Ludovico Einaudi. **10.00** Calm Classics. **1.00** Bill Overton. **4.00** Early Breakfast.

BBC NEWCASTLE
95.4 FM

6.00 Matt Bailey. **10.00** Gilly Hope. **2.00** Steve Bailey. **6.00** Total Sport. **7.00** Joel Mitchell. **10.00** The Late Show. **1.00** As Radio 5 Live.

HITS RADIO NORTH EAST
97.1, 103 FM

6.00 Breakfast Show. **10.00** The Throwback. **11.00** Tom Green. **1.00** Hattie Pearson. **4.00** Gemma Atkinson and Mike Toolan. **7.00** Scott Clarke. **10.00** Sarah-Jane Crawford. **1.00** Mary Mandefield.

HEART NORTH EAST
100.7 FM

6.30 Heart Breakfast. **10.00** Pandora Christie. **1.00** Matt Wilkinson. **4.00** JK and Kelly Brook. **7.00** Dev Griffin. **10.00** Ben Atkinson. **1.00** Guy Howard.

RADIO TYNESIDE
93.6 FM

6.00 Early Show. **8.00** Good Morning Tyneside. **10.00** Morning Call. **12.00** Lunchbreak. **2.00** The Afternoon Show. **4.00** Teatime on Tyneside. **6.00** Sixties at Six. **7.00** Older Voices. **8.00** On the Way Up. **9.00** Fabulous Fifties. **10.00** Late On. **12.00** Night Sounds.

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WEDNESDAY'S TV

FREEVIEW AND SATELLITE

First Dates, E4, 12.05am

E4 SKY: 135 FV: 13

6.00 Hollyoaks 6.55 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts 7.00 Couples Come Dine with Me 8.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA 10.00 America's Funniest Home Videos 11.00 Below Deck Down Under 12.00 The Simpsons 2.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 3.00 Modern Family 5.00 The Simpsons 6.00 The Simpsons Bart is referred to a therapist. With the voice of Meg Ryan. **6.30 Hollyoaks** Caleb reveals a secret. **7.00 Hollyoaks** Frankie opens up to Caleb about her past. **7.30 The Simpsons** Bart realises he has a crush on his new teacher. **8.00 Below Deck Down Under** Harry makes a move on Brianna but just as sparks start to fly, he picks up an injury. Meanwhile, Anthony's so sick of Tzarina that he considers his future on the boat. **9.00 Gogglebox** Appraisals of The Masked Dancer, Married at First Sight UK, Nadiya's Everyday Baking, Bad Sisters, This Is MY House and Epic Adventures with Bertie Gregory. From September 2022. **10.00 Gogglebox** The armchair critics share their opinions on the state funeral of Elizabeth II. **11.00 Naked Attraction** Two students take the plunge. **12.05 First Dates 1.05 Gogglebox 2.10 Below Deck Down Under 2.55 Abbott Elementary 3.20 The Simpsons 4.10 The Goldbergs 4.35 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 5.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA**

More4 SKY: 136 FV: 18

8.55 Heir Hunters 10.00 Four in a Bed 12.40 Come Dine with Me 3.20 Four in a Bed 5.50 George Clarke's Old House, New Home George returns to a grand Victorian villa in Ormskirk. **6.55 Location, Location, Location** Kirstie Allsopp helps two sisters find a two-bedroom flat in trendy north London, while Phil Spencer is with a couple who need a detached family home in north Wales. **7.55 Grand Designs** Kevin McCloud follows the progress of Stephen Yeoman and Anita Findlay, who want to build a cutting-edge, post-industrial house in the traditional area of South Downs. **9.00 My Floating Home** Mark Evans meets a couple who need a narrowboat with a quiet engine to keep their dog happy, so have commissioned a fully electric vessel with a bespoke window. Last in the series. **10.00 24 Hours in Police Custody: Murder Is No Game** Part one of two. One of the biggest murder inquiries conducted in Bedfordshire. **11.30 24 Hours in Police Custody: Murder Is No Game** Part two of two. Detectives have a suspect in custody. **12.30 999: On the Front Line 1.30 24 Hours in Police Custody: Murder Is No Game 4.00 Close**

Sky One SKY: 106

6.00 Mornings 6.30 Mornings 7.00 Mornings with Ridge and Frost 7.30 Mornings with Ridge and Frost 8.00 Stargate SG-1 9.00 NCIS: Los Angeles 10.00 Will & Grace 11.00 The Simpsons 12.00 Big Cat Country 1.00 Hawaii Five-0 3.00 S.W.A.T 5.00 The Simpsons 6.00 Animal Control Emily keeps her distance from Frank. **6.30 Animal Control** Frank is tasked with taking a dog to the farm. **7.00 The Simpsons** With the guest voice of Elton John. **7.30 The Simpsons** Marge's driving habits come under scrutiny. **8.00 A League of Their Own: The Rally** Jamie Redknapp, Jill Scott, Micah Richards and Tom Davis compete in the ALOTO Rally Cup, making their way in pairs from London to Turin by all transport modes possible. **9.00** FILM **The Equalizer (2014) (18)** An ex-secret agent fights to bring down a crime syndicate after coming to the aid of an abused prostitute. Action thriller, with Denzel Washington and Chloe Grace Moretz. **11.20 Animal Control** Emily keeps her distance from Frank. **11.50 Animal Control** Frank is tasked with taking a dog to the farm. **12.20 Grimm 1.10 The Force: Manchester 2.05 Road Wars 3.00 Hawaii Five-0 4.00 S.W.A.T**

Sky Atlantic SKY: 108

6.00 Fish Town 8.00 Billions 10.10 The White Lotus 12.20 Homicide: Life on the Street 2.10 Billions 4.10 The White Lotus 5.40 Task 6.50 The Gilded Age Bertha encourages Gladys to stand up for herself and her new husband, while George faces an uphill battle to secure the rail line that runs through Chicago. **7.55 The Gilded Age** Mrs Astor discusses the future of her Newport ball with Bertha, while after returning from Arizona, Larry shares a promising discovery with George, only to receive troubling news. **9.00 House of the Dragon** While Rhaenyra and Daemon focus on how best to deal with Ormund, tensions among their neglected allies begin to erupt. **10.15 Station Eleven** Post-apocalyptic drama, starring Mackenzie Davis and Himesh Patel. **11.15 Station Eleven** Kirsten meets a mysterious man. **12.15 The White Lotus 3.05 Billions 4.10 Urban Secrets**

Sky Witness SKY: 107

6.00 Bondi Rescue 7.00 Border Patrol 8.00 Nothing to Declare 9.00 Brit Cops: Rapid Response 10.00 Stop, Search, Seize 11.00 Bull 12.00 FBI 2.00 The Rookie 3.00 Law & Order: Criminal Intent 4.00 Nothing to Declare 6.00 Nothing to Declare Fly-on-the-wall documentary. **6.30 Nothing to Declare** Fly-on-the-wall documentary. **7.00 Nothing to Declare** Fly-on-the-wall documentary. **7.30 Nothing to Declare** Fly-on-the-wall documentary. **8.00 Caught on Dashcam** A countdown of the most incredible, hilarious and spectacular real-life crashes in the world — all caught on dashcam. **9.00 Fire Country** The team responds to a dangerous fire at the local drive-in movie theatre, where they must enlist civilians to help stop the blaze spreading. **10.00 FBI: International** The team organise the release of a former Marine detained in Istanbul. **11.00 The Rookie** Nolan joins forces with the FBI. **12.00 FBI 2.00 CIA 3.00 The Rookie 4.00 The Force: Manchester 5.00 Border Security: Canada's Front Line**

Sky Arts SKY: 122 FV: 36

6.00 Jacqueline du Pré: Genius and Tragedy 7.55 The Joy of Painting 9.00 Tales of the Unexpected 10.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 11.00 Discovering: Walter Matthau 12.00 The Movies 1.00 Tales of the Unexpected 2.00 The Alfred Hitchcock Hour 3.00 The Seventies 4.00 Discovering: Shirley MacLaine 5.00 Portrait Artist of the Year 2021 6.00 Tales of the Unexpected A lonely alcoholic bumps into an old friend. **6.30 Tales of the Unexpected** A ruthless executive covers up a guilty secret. **7.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents** A student believes a professor has murdered his wife. **7.30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents** A young woman witnesses two men kill a bank messenger. **8.00 Alec Guinness: A Class Act** A look at the career of the actor through the words of his family and friends who knew and worked with him, as well as archive interviews with Guinness. **10.00 The Eighties** The impact of the emergence of Aids. **11.00 Classic Albums** The Grateful Dead albums Anthem of the Sun and American Beauty. **12.20** FILM **Midnight Movies: From the Margin to the Mainstream (2005) (15)** Documentary celebrating six cult films. **2.10** FILM **I Am Bruce Lee (2011) (15)** The life and career of the actor and martial artist. **4.10 The Art of the Garden 5.05 The Movies**

5Star SKY: 128 FV: 32

6.00 Teleshopping 7.00 Shop: Must Have Ideas 7.30 eFOLDi Mobility Scooters 8.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun 10.00 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords 11.00 Traffic Cops 2.00 Police Interceptors 5.00 Shoplifters: Caught Red Handed A masked man bursts into an east London newsagents armed with a rounders bat. **6.00 Home and Away** Amelia goes the extra mile. **6.30 Home and Away** John scrambles for donations. **7.00 Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts** Lead nurse Hannah faces an extra challenge when there is a shortage of the porters, while consultant Julian Humphrey looks after a 76-year-old woman who had a nasty fall. **8.00 GPs: Behind Closed Doors** Advanced nurse practitioner Debbie makes an urgent referral for a patient to see a dermatologist when she comes in with a new itchy patch of skin on her leg. **9.00** FILM **Crocodile Dundee (1986) (15)** An Australian hunter with a larger-than-life reputation accompanies a reporter from the Outback to the urban jungle of Manhattan. Comedy, starring Paul Hogan. **11.00 Love of an Icon: The Legend of Crocodile Dundee** Documentary exploring the making of the 1986 film Crocodile Dundee. **12.55 Police Interceptors 3.35 Friends 4.00 Teleshopping**

A League of Their Own: The Rally, Sky One, 8pm

5USA SKY: 141 FV: 21

6.00 Ideal World Shopping 9.00 Entertainment News on 5 9.10 NCIS 1.00 Law & Order 6.00 NCIS The team devises an elaborate plan to infiltrate a mob. **7.00 NCIS** The unit investigates the death of one of Kasie's forensic scientists. **8.00 NCIS** The team probes a Navy lieutenant's death at a blood bank. **9.00** FILM **Jesse Stone: Innocents Lost (2011) (15)** Detective thriller sequel, starring Tom Selleck. **10.50 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit** A contestant on a reality dating show claims to have been raped. **11.50 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit** A corrections officer is accused of sexually assaulting his female charges. **12.50 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit 3.35 Cops 4.00 Teleshopping**

ITV Quiz FV: 28

9.00 Deal or No Deal 10.00 Tipping Point 1.00 Lingo 2.00 Tenable 3.00 Wheel of Fortune 4.00 Riddiculous 5.00 Deal or No Deal 6.00 Lingo Luke and Sonali and Phil and Jonathan take part. **7.00 Lingo** Harriet and Ella, and Steve and Dave take part. **8.00 Lingo** Sue and Wayne, and Serena and Neha take part. **9.00 Supermarket Sweep** Rylan Clark hosts a revival of the game show. **10.00 Tipping Point** Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. **11.00 Tipping Point** Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. **12.00 Tipping Point 12.55 Tenable 1.50 Riddiculous 2.35 Unwind with ITV 3.00 Teleshopping**

SPORT

SKY MAIN EVENT

6.00 Sky Sports News. Round-up of the sports news. **7.00** Sky Sports Breakfast. The latest headlines and reports from Sky Sports News. **10.00** Sky Sports News. Round-up of the sports news. **11.30** The Hundred Live. Welsh Fire Women v Trent Rockets Women (Start-time 11.30am). **2.30** The Hundred Live. Welsh Fire Men v Trent Rockets Men (Start-time 3.00pm). **6.00** The Hundred Live. MI London Men v London Spirit Men (Start-time 6.30pm). Coverage of the match from Kia Oval, London. **9.30** Sports Centre. A round-up of the sports news. **10.00** Sky Sports News at Ten. A round-up of the day's news. **11.00** Live Tennis. The Washington DC Open. Coverage of day three of the WTA 500 and ATP 500 event, a hard-court tournament held at William H.G. FitzGerald Tennis Center in the USA. **2.00** Live Tennis. Coverage from the WTA and/or ATP Tours. **3.30** Live WNBA. Phoenix Mercury v Golden State Valkyries (Tip-off 3.00am). **5.30** Sky Sports News.

SKY PREMIER LEAGUE

6.00 PL Greatest Games. **7.00** PL Best Goals 10/11. **8.00** Premier League 100 Club. **9.00** Premier League Review. Action from the opening round of fixtures. **7.00** Premier League Stories. Celebrating the playing career and managerial impact of Kevin Keegan. **7.30** Newcastle — The Entertainers. The history of Kevin Keegan's exhilarating Newcastle United side during the 1990s. **8.00** Premier League Review. Action from the 12th round of fixtures. **9.00** Premier League 360 — Big Sam's Bolton. A look at Sam Allardyce's iconic Bolton team of the early 2000s in the Premier League. **11.00** Premier League Years. Memorable moments from the 2017/18 season. **1.00** PL Retro. **3.00** PL Greatest Games. **4.00** Best PL Goals 06/07. **5.00** Premier League Best Goals.

TNT SPORTS 1

6.00 Men's Cycling Pro Series. **7.00** Tour de France Women. **7.30** ABB FIA Formula E World Championship Highlights. Action from the Tokyo e-Prix first race. **9.30** Live: Fencing World Championship. Coverage from the fifth day of the event. **1.30** Test Cricket Highlights. West Indies v Pakistan. **2.30** Live Test Cricket. West Indies v Pakistan. **11.00** Playing for Our Future — Cricket. Asking what the future holds for cricket in the battle against global warming. **11.15** Playing for Our Future — Football. **11.45** MLB Highlights. Action from Major League Baseball. **12.45** Live MLB. St Louis Cardinals v Chicago Cubs (Start-time 12.45am). **3.30** MLB Plays of the Week. **4.00** Shanghai Masters Snooker.

TNT SPORTS 2

6.00 Commonwealth Games — Daily Highlights. **7.00** Commonwealth Games — Athletics & Para Athletics. **8.00** Commonwealth Games — Netball. **8.30** Live: Commonwealth Games 360. Coverage from the day session on day six of the Games. **6.00** Live: Commonwealth Games 360. Coverage from the night session on day six of the Games, which take place in Glasgow. **10.30** Commonwealth Games — Daily Highlights. Action from the sixth day of the 2026 Games. **11.30** Commonwealth Games — Netball. **12.30** Commonwealth Games — Athletics & Para Athletics. **1.30** Commonwealth Games — Swimming & Para Swimming. **2.30** Commonwealth Games — Daily Highlights. **3.30** Commonwealth Games — Netball. **4.00** Commonwealth Games — Athletics & Para Athletics. **5.00** Commonwealth Games — Swimming & Para Swimming.

MOVIES

The Brutalist, Sky Cinema Drama, 10.30pm

Sky Cinema Premiere

7.30 In Cold Light (2025) (15) 9.10 Wicked: For Good (2025) (PG) 11.35 Mortal Kombat II (2026) (15) 1.40 Bugonia (2025) (18) 3.45 Eleanor the Great (2025) (12) 5.30 Wicked: For Good (2025) (PG) Fantasy sequel, starring Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande.

8.00 Mortal Kombat II (2026). (15) Several champions are pitted against one another in the ultimate battle to defeat the dark rule of Shao Kahn. Fantasy adventure, starring Karl Urban. (S)

10.05 Primate (2025). (18) Premiere. Horror, starring Johnny Sequoyah and Jessica Alexander. (S)

11.45 Lurker (2025). (15) Crime drama, starring Théodore Pellerin. (S)

1.30 Lee Cronin's The Mummy (2026) (18) (S) **4.00 Redux Redux (2025) (15)** (S)

Sky Cinema Drama

6.25 The Glorias (2020) (15) 9.00 The Friend (2024) (15) 11.05 A Different Man (2024) (15) 1.05 Catch Me If You Can (2002) (12) 3.35 An Officer and a Gentleman (1982) (15) 5.45 The Bodyguard (1992) (15)

8.00 Joker: Folie a Deux (2024). (15) Unhinged comedian Arthur Fleck meets the love of his life while incarcerated at Arkham State Hospital. Musical thriller, starring Joaquin Phoenix and Lady Gaga. (S)

10.30 The Brutalist (2025). (18) When a couple flee Europe in 1947, their new lives in the US are changed by a strange client. Drama, starring Adrien Brody. (S)

1.55 Girl You Know It's True (2023) (15) (S) **4.10 The Friend (2024) (15)** (S)

Sky Cinema Comedy

7.25 Seven Psychopaths (2012) (15) 9.15 The 'Burbs (1989) (PG) 11.05 The Man with Two Brains (1983) (15) 12.40 Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy (2025) (15) 2.45 You've Got Mail (1998) (PG) 4.45 Quartet (2012) (12) 6.25 Sausage Party (2016) (15)

8.00 The Wedding Singer (1998). (12) With Adam Sandler. (S)

9.40 Beetlejuice Beetlejuice (2024). (12) The mischievous demon is summoned once more when Delia Deetz returns to the close-knit community of Winter River. Comedy sequel, starring Michael Keaton. (S)

11.30 Anaconda (2025). (12) With Jack Black. (S)

1.20 The Phoenician Scheme (2025) (15) (S) **3.05 The Man with Two Brains (1983) (15)** (S) **4.40 Yesterday (2019) (12)** (S)

Sky Cinema Action

6.25 Reckless (2026) (15) 8.05 Nobody 2 (2025) (15) 9.40 Green Lantern (2011) (12) 11.35 Justice League (2017) (12) 1.45 Bad Boys (1995) (15) 3.45 300: Rise of an Empire (2014) (15) 5.45 The Mummy Returns (2001) (PG)

8.00 Troy (2004). (15) A Trojan prince elopes with the king of Sparta's wife, plunging Troy into war against a mighty Greek alliance. Epic adventure, with Brad Pitt. (S)

10.55 Venom: The Last Dance (2024). (15) With Tom Hardy. (S)

12.50 Nobody 2 (2025) (15) (S) **2.35 Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves (1991) (PG)** (S) **5.00 Jackie Chan's Police Story (1985) (15)** (S)

Sky Cinema Thriller

7.00 The Cinema List: Race Against Time 7.20 Breakdown (1997) (15) 9.05 Chinatown (1974) (15) 11.25 Dog Day Afternoon (1975) (15) 1.35 Jason Bourne (2016) (12) 3.45 Red Dragon (2002) (15) 6.00 RocknRolla (2008) (15) Crime comedy, starring Gerard Butler and Tom Wilkinson.

8.00 Dead Man's Wire (2026). (15) A land-swindled developer kidnaps his broker's son at gunpoint, demanding revenge for an alleged financial betrayal. Thriller, starring Bill Skarsgård and Al Pacino. (S)

10.00 The Krays (1990). (18) Gangster biopic, starring Gary and Martin Kemp. (S)

12.10 Caddo Lake (2024) (12) (S) **2.00 Breakdown (1997) (15)** (S) **3.45 Chinatown (1974) (15)** (S)

Talking Pictures TV

6.00 Suspected Person (1942) (PG) 7.35 Saloon Bar (1940) (PG) 9.05 Nowhere to Go (1958) (PG) 11.05 Shepherd on the Rock (1993) (PG) 1.00 The Buccaneers 1.30 Send for Paul Temple (1946) (PG) 3.10 Dial 999 3.40 Heavens Above! (1963) (PG) 6.00 Dial 999 Maguire asks for his men to be armed. **6.30 Give Us a Clue** Guests include Derek Griffiths, Maggie Moone and Roy Walker.

7.00 Out of Town How a community came together to save the chalk streams that feed it. (S)

7.30 Travelling Man Lomax becomes a suspect in a rustling case. (S)

8.35 The Reckless Moment (1949). (PG) Drama, starring James Mason. (S)

10.15 The Anderson Tapes (1971). (15) Thriller, starring Sean Connery. (S)

12.15 Cactus Flower (1969) (PG) (S) **2.20 Warp Speed (1981) (PG)** (S) **4.00 Stagecoach West** (S) **5.00 The Rogues** (S)

Film4

11.00 Destroyer (1943) (U) 1.05 The Mouse That Roared (1959) (U) 2.45 Independence Day: Resurgence Interview Special 2.50 The Violent Men (1955) (PG) 4.45 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea (1961) (U) 6.55 The Day the Earth Stood Still (2008) (12) Sci-fi remake, starring Keanu Reeves.

9.00 The Florida Project (2017). (15) A six-year-old girl roams the grounds of the motel where she lives, looking for adventure with her small band of friends. Drama, with Willem Dafoe and Brooklynn Prince. (S)

11.15 Pearl (2022). (15) Horror, starring Mia Goth. (S)

1.20 Minari (2020) (12) (S) **3.40 Close**

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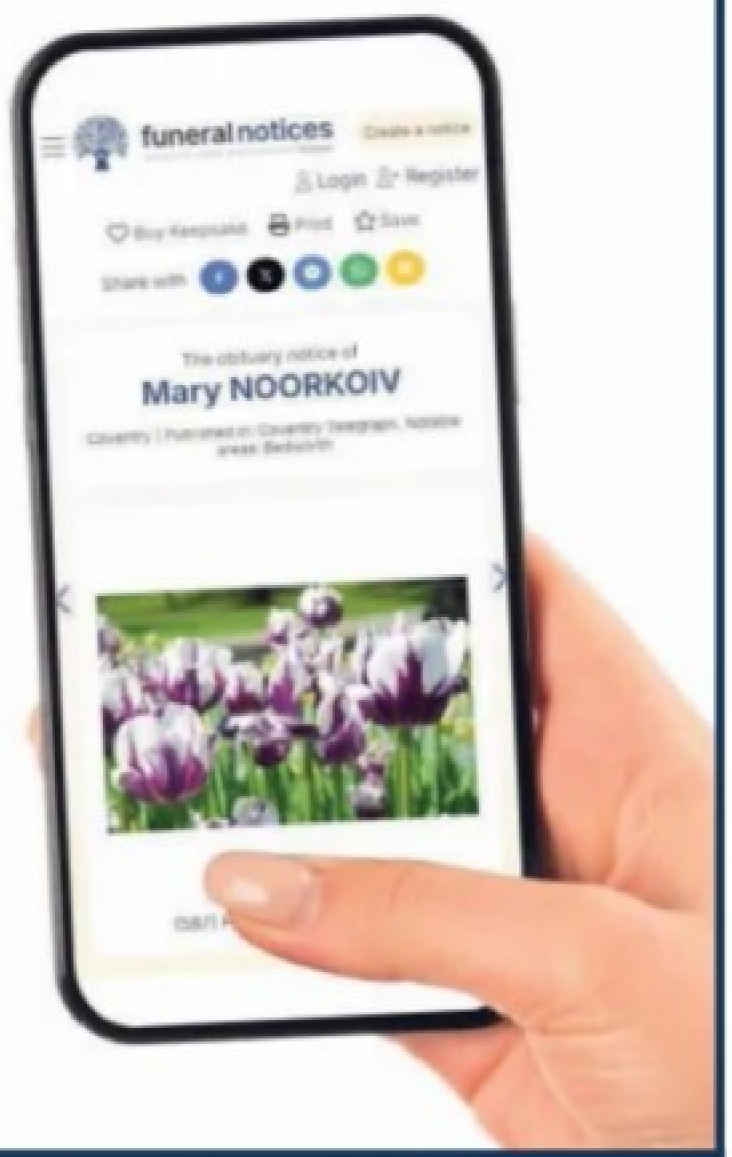

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Deaths

DIXON
Ailsa Anne
(Anick)

Peacefully on 21st July 2026, aged 89 years. Ailsa beloved wife of the late Fenwick, much loved mother of David and Jenna loved by all family and friends.

Service and cremation to take place at Newcastle West Road Crematorium on Monday 10th August at 11.00 am.

No flowers by request, donations may be given in Ailsa's memory to Injured Jockey's Fund c/o

Dodd's of Hexham.
NE46 2EW.

MATHER
Elizabeth

Gosforth late of Jesmond

Elizabeth, daughter of the late John and Jenny Mather died peacefully at Dene Park House on July 19th 2026, in her 99th year.

Please meet for a celebration of Elizabeth's long life at Whitley Bay Crematorium on Friday 7th August at 1.30pm.

Donations in lieu of flowers can be made at the service in support for Arthritis UK.

Enquiries to
Newcastle Family Funeral Directors,
73 Great North Road, Gosforth,
Newcastle, NE3 2DQ.
Tel 0191 2845400.

RYAN
Robert Patton
died on 27 July 2026 aged 95.

Beloved husband of Catherine and father of Jeanne, Thomas and John, ten grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Funeral private to be held in Yvoire, Haute Savoie, France.

SCOTT
Ann
(née Sprot)
Monkseaton

Died suddenly at home on Saturday 18th July after a short illness.

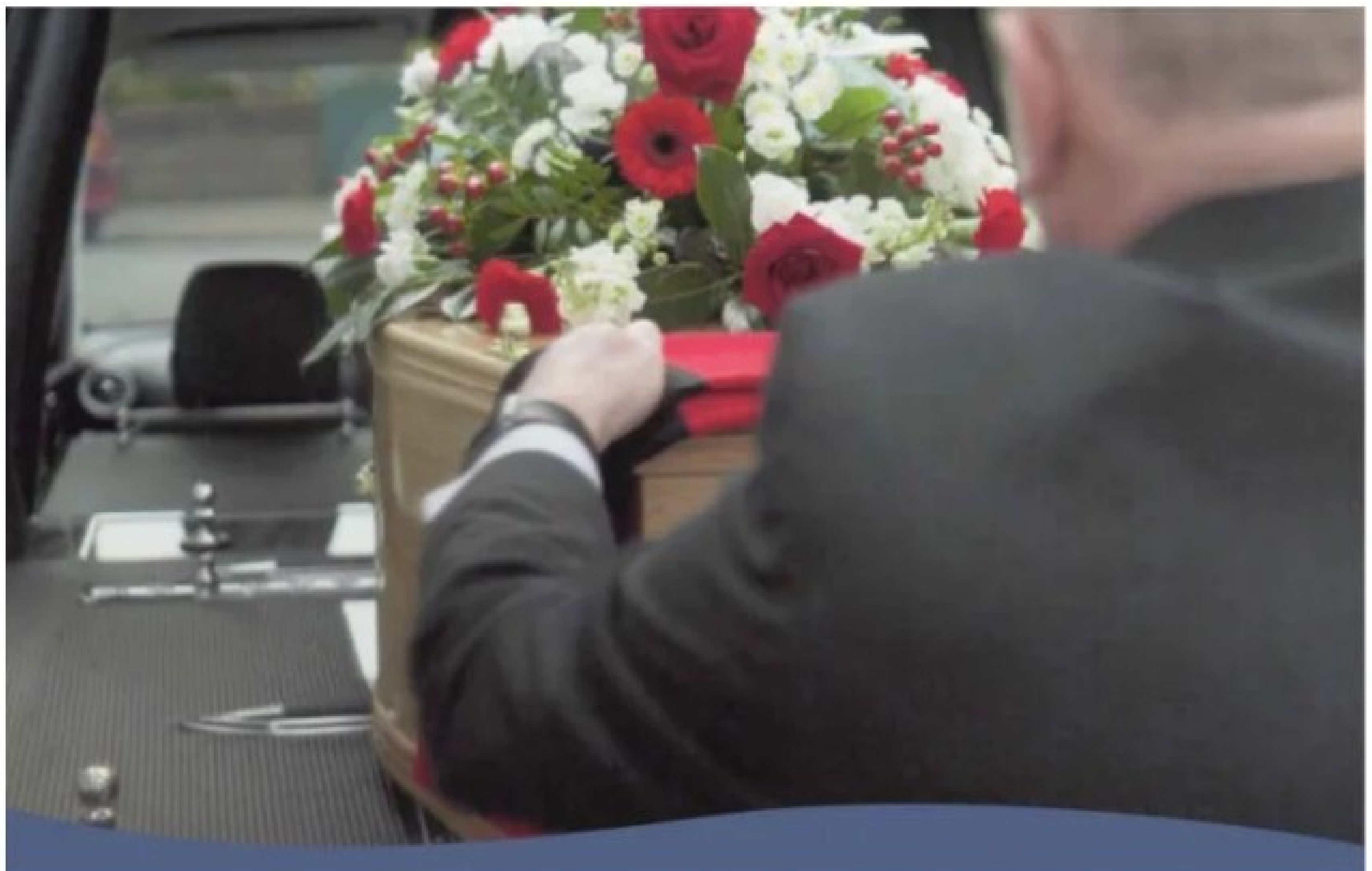
Beloved wife of Graham and a dear sister, sister-in-law, aunt and great aunt. Ann will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service to take place at St Mary's Church, Belford on Thursday 6th August at 2.30pm followed by a private family burial in the churchyard.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu if desired to Cancer Research UK, St Oswald's Hospice & The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation

c/o Keith Slater Funeral Services
Unit 1 Phillips Yard, Broad Road, Seahouses
NE68 7UP. Tel: 01665 720258

KEITH SLATER
FUNERAL SERVICES



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SAIF INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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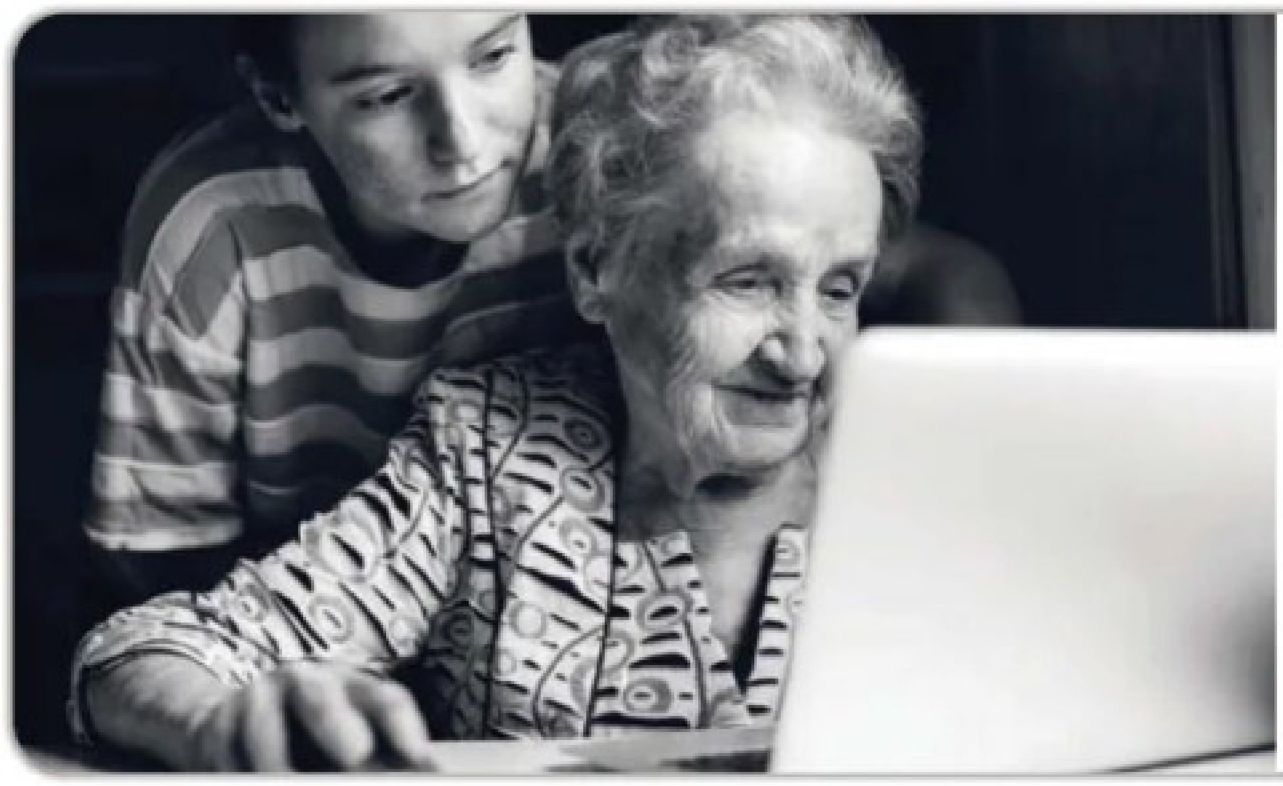

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Deaths

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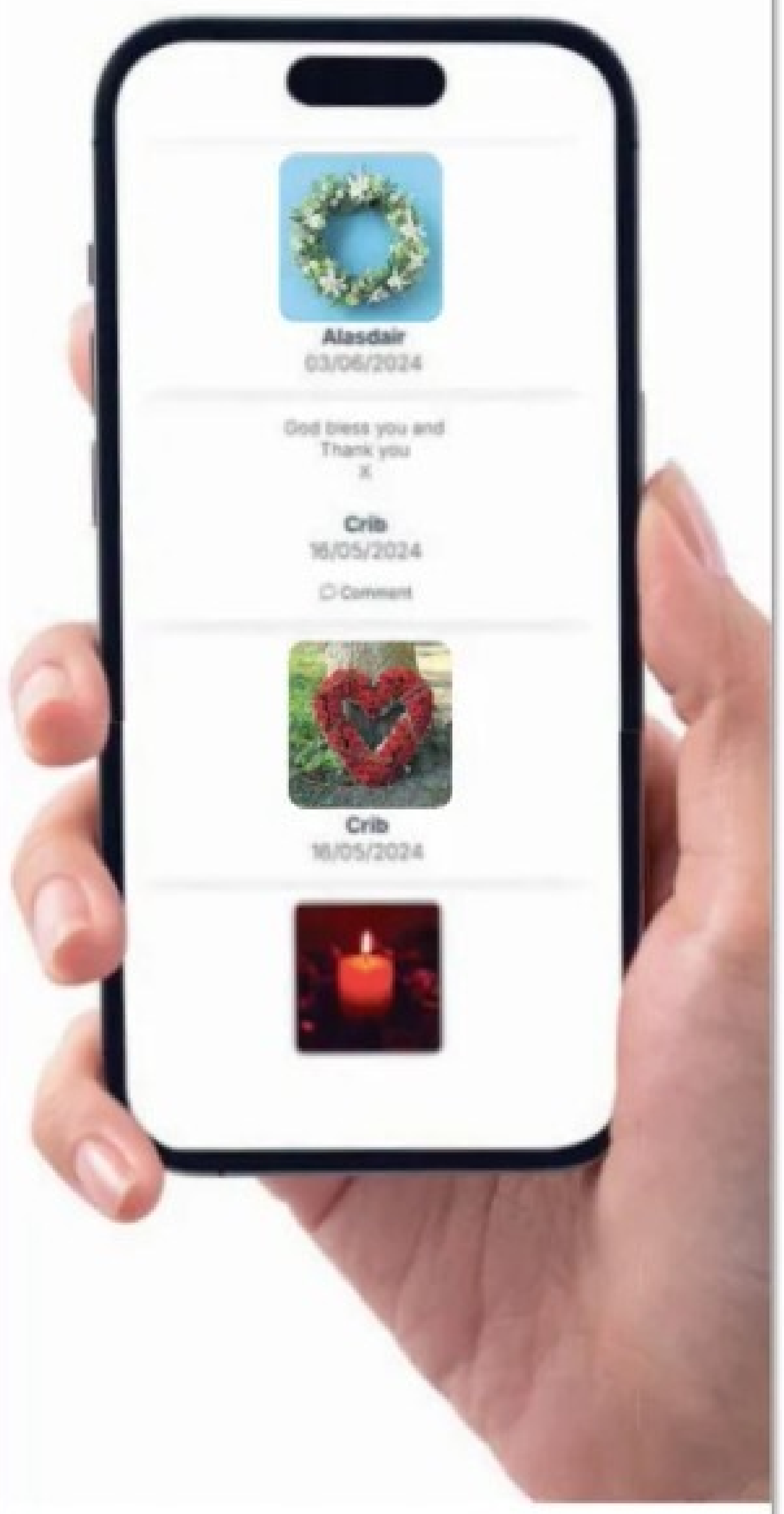

Alasdair
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Crib
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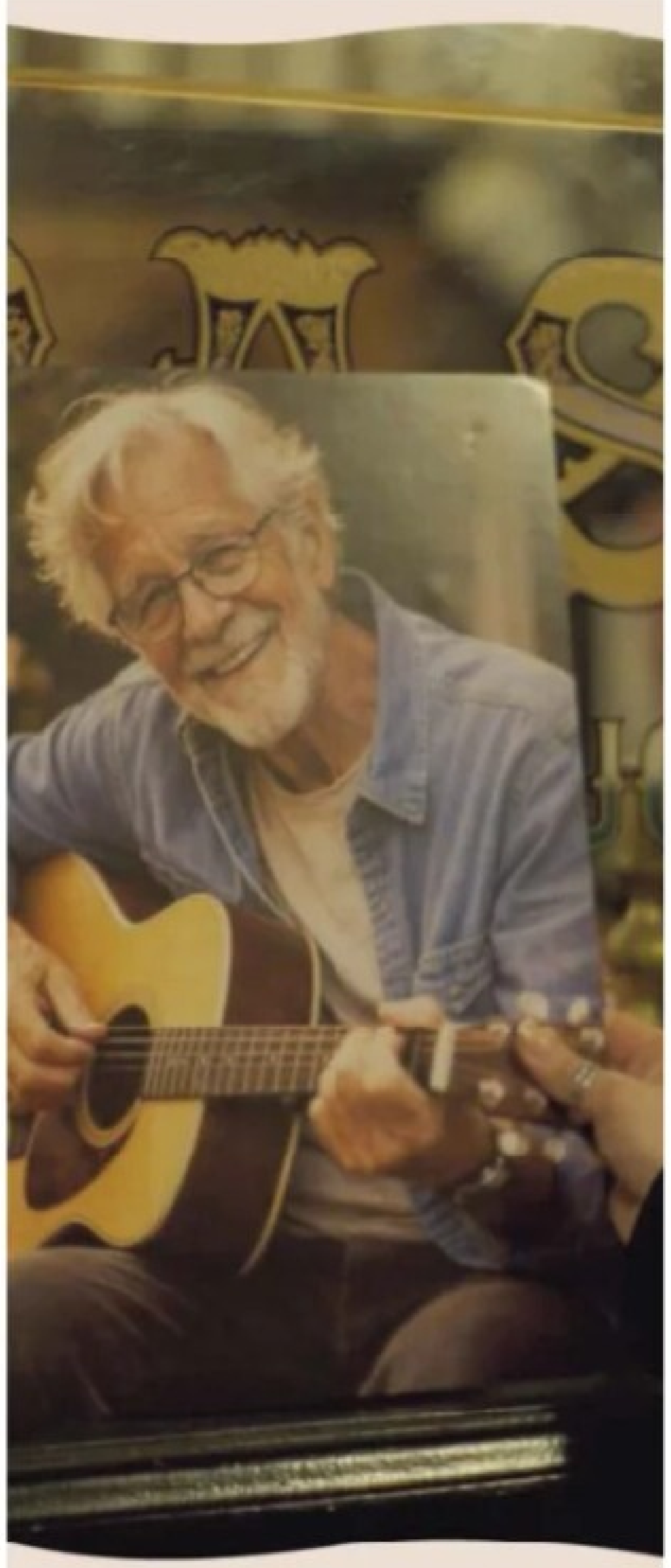

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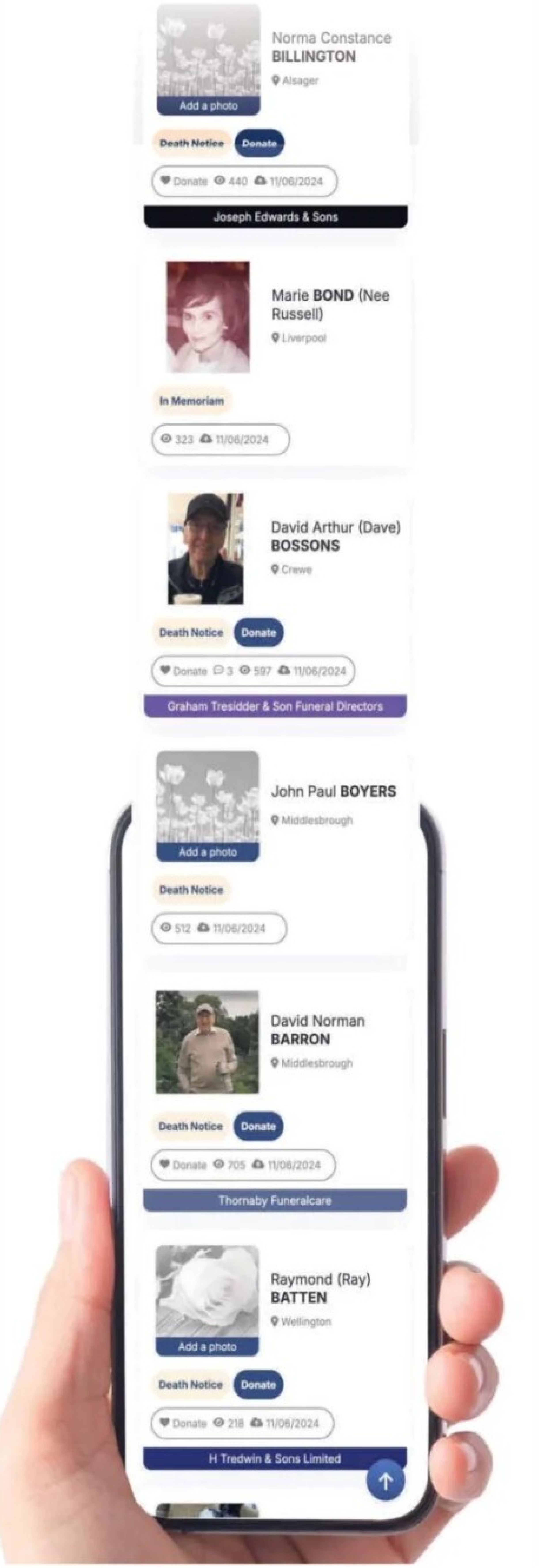

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Traffic & Roads

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF GATESHEAD (PORTOBELLO, BIRTLEY – VARIOUS FOOTPATH CLOSURES) TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 2026

Notice is hereby given that the Borough Council of Gateshead proposes to make an Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit pedestrians and cyclists from proceeding along the routes set out in Schedule 1 below. The Order is required to facilitate inserting new pipework for water. The Order will come into force on 10 August 2026. The maximum duration of the Order will be 6 months in respect of the footpath closures, with works expected to be completed by 07 August 2027. During the works all pedestrians and cyclists will be prohibited from proceeding along the footpaths referred to in Schedule 1 until the works are completed or at such times and to such extent as may from time to time be indicated by the display of traffic signs. During the works there will be a signed diversion in place.

Dated 29 July 2026

Angela Simmons-Mather, Chief Legal Officer, Gateshead Council, Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead, NE8 1HH

SCHEDULE 1

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF FOOTPATHS

Footpath	Description
Footpath between Glenluce and Tantallon	From the gable end of property 117 Tantallon in northeasterly direction for 31.5 metres
Footpath between Glenluce and Tamerton Drive	From the gable end of property 77 Tantallon in northerly direction for 25.3 metres
Tantallon Footway adjacent to the front of property 77 Tantallon	From the gable end of property 77 Tantallon in a easterly direction for 8.3 metres
Footpath at the rear of properties 17 to 21 Tamerton Drive	From the southern boundary of the rear of property 21 Tamerton Drive in a northerly direction for 34 metres
Footpath adjacent to property 21 Tamerton Drive	From the gable end of 21 Tamerton drive in an easterly direction for 30.5 metres
Footpath adjacent to the front of properties 13 to 15 Garsdale	From the junction with Garsdale in a northeasterly direction for 42 metres
Footpath between 29 and 30 windermere	From the gable end of property 29 windermere in a northerly direction for 30 metres
Footpath between Thursby and Windermere	From the gable end of property 1 Thursby in a westerly and then southwesterly direction for 164 metres
Footpath between Thursby and Thirlmere	From a point 4 metres northwest of the gable end of property 1 Thursby in a northwesterly direction for 29 metres
Footpath between Kendal and Grasmere	From a point 12.8 metres north of the gable end of property 11 grasmere in a southerly direction for 35.8 metres
Footpath between Kendal and Ennerdale	From a point 13.5 metres north of the gable end of property 5 Kendal in a northerly direction for 13.5 metres
Footpath between Windermere and Ennerdale	From a point 26.5 metres south of the gable end of property 16 Windermere in a northeasterly direction for 69 metres
Footpath between Kendal and Ennerdale	From the gable end of property 10 Ennerdale in a southerly direction for 18.5 metres
Footpath between Kendal and Grasmere	From the gable end of property 25 Kendall in a northerly direction for 15.8 metres

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Traffic & Roads

CITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (A695 SCOTSWOOD ROAD) TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 2026

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne intend, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicular traffic to proceed on;
A695 Scotswood Road westbound lanes from Plumber Street to a point 50 metres southeast from Dunn Street,
Dunn Street from A695 Scotswood Road southeast wards for 30 metres,
A695 Scotswood Road eastbound lanes from Rye Hill southwest wards for 100 metres,
A695 Scotswood Road/Rye Hill/ Plumber Street roundabout for the full circulatory carriageway of the roundabout.
Rye Hill from A695 Scotswood Road northwest wards for 15 metres, and Plumber Street for 25 metres.

2. The alternative route for traffic will be signed on site as required.

3. The order is required to allow works to be carried out on or near the highway.

4. Exemptions will be provided for vehicles engaged in the said works and police, fire brigade and ambulance vehicles on emergency call.

5. The Order will come into operation on 17 August 2026 and will continue, as and when the relevant traffic signs are displayed, up to 8 November 2026 or until the proposed works are completed, whichever is the earlier.

6. Further information may be obtained by emailing Trafficregulationorders@newcastle.gov.uk or telephoning the Council's Traffic Management section on (0191) 2787878.

Dated: 29 July 2026
L Scott, Service Manager Democratic Services,
Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH

CITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (FORTH BANKS)

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 2026

1. **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on 16 July 2026 the Council of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne made an Order under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicular traffic to proceed on Forth Banks from it's junction with Forth Street to it's junction with Skinnerburn Road.
2. The alternative route for traffic will be signed on site as required.
3. The order is required to allow works to be carried out on or near the highway.
4. Exemptions will be provided for vehicles engaged in the said works and police, fire brigade and ambulance vehicles on emergency call.
5. The Order will come into operation on 10 August 2026 and will continue, as and when the relevant traffic signs are displayed, up to 7 February 2027 or until the proposed works are completed, whichever is the earlier.
6. Further information may be obtained by emailing Trafficregulationorders@newcastle.gov.uk or telephoning the Council's Traffic Management section on (0191) 2787878.

Dated: 29 July 2026

L Scott, Service Manager Democratic Services,
Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH

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CITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (A695 SCOTSWOOD ROAD) TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 2026

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on 16 July 2026 the Council of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne made an Order under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicular traffic to proceed The A695 Scotswood Road between its eastern junction with William Armstrong Drive and its junction with Whitehouse Road.

2. The alternative route for traffic will be signed on site as required.

3. The order is required to allow works to be carried out on or near the highway.

4. Exemptions will be provided for vehicles engaged in the said works and police, fire brigade and ambulance vehicles on emergency call.

5. The Order will come into operation on 3 August 2026 and will continue, as and when the relevant traffic signs are displayed, up to 4 February 2028 or until the proposed works are completed, whichever is the earlier.

6. Further information may be obtained by emailing Trafficregulationorders@newcastle.gov.uk or telephoning the Council's Traffic Management section on (0191) 2787878.

Dated: 29 July 2026
L Scott, Service Manager Democratic Services,
Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH

Planning

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990 (as amended)

I GIVE NOTICE that the following application(s) is being made to the Borough Council of Gateshead:
Development at: Hilton Newcastle Gateshead, Bottle Bank, Gateshead, NE8 2AR
Application Reference: DC/26/00507/ADV
Hilton is applying for planning permission for Installation of 3No Totem Signs (C, D, and E)
Development at: The Vicarage, Lamesley Cottages, Lamesley, Chester Le Street
Application Reference: DC/26/00537/HHA
Mrs Alison Haskin is applying for planning permission for Install 2 new windows to the back of the house (GF and FF.) To the rear offshoot; replace a door and window with bi-fold doors, replace one window with patio doors, change the design of a window and the dormer window and install 3 rooflights. Also, render the walls of the offshoot in a heritage sage grey/green finish.
The applications may affect the character and appearance of the conservation area.
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (England) ORDER 2015
I GIVE NOTICE that the following application(s) is being made to the Borough Council of Gateshead:
Development at: Unit 1, Follingsby Avenue, Felling, NE10 8HQ
Application Reference: DC/26/00414/FUL
Follingsby Park Properies No.2 Ltd is applying for planning permission for External alterations to existing industrial unit to provide additional loading bays and associated works
Development at: Land To The North Of Gosforth Terrace
Application Reference: DC/26/00506/FUL
Leazes Homes And Oakley Homes is applying for planning permission for Development of 10 bungalows, open space, and associated landscaping and infrastructure
The above applications involve major development.
You can view the application online at http://public.gateshead.gov.uk/online-applications/ . Comments can be made online or by email to planning@gateshead.gov.uk within 21 days of the date of this publication.
Dated: 29/07/26
Neil Wilkinson
Acting Service Director, Climate Change, Compliance, Planning and Transport, Economy, Innovation and Growth

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Saltburn Cricket Club from above
NURPHOTO VIA GETTY IMAGES

LEAGUE IS ROCKED BY VIRAL FOOTAGE SHOWING UMPIRES TRICKED BY APPEALS

It's not cricket – NYSD probes cheating claims

By CRAIG JOHNS

THE North Yorkshire and South Durham Cricket League have launched an investigation after cheating allegations against Saltburn CC went viral.

Footage which has been viewed millions of times around the world, and has been covered by global news organisations, allegedly appears to show Saltburn's first slip clicking his fingers as the ball passes the bat of Noman Shabir to trick the umpire into believing there was an edge to the wicketkeeper.

The incident took place in the weekend's second division meeting between Saltburn Seconds and Norton Seconds, with the batsman protesting in the clip after being given out. Saltburn won by 159 runs and currently sit top of the league table.

As the footage went viral, internet sleuths went back to watch previous Saltburn wickets and have been posting clips online dating back to last season which they claim show the same fielder clicking during other now-contentious wickets.

Wicketkeeper Josh Bowes last week took eight catches in his side's 22-run win over Shildon Railway. The Test record for catches by a keeper in an innings stands at seven.

Bowes also leads the league standings with 31 catches, which is 10 more than any other player.

Rory Cotterill, who captained Middlesbrough Seconds during a 29-run defeat by Saltburn last month, responded to a social media post containing the video and alleged two further incidents of cheating by Saltburn in that match.

An NYSD Premier Cricket League statement read: "The League have received a formal complaint regarding alleged incidents in a Division Two game on Saturday 25th July 2026.

"A full investigation has been initiated and until such time as the formal processes are complete no further comment will be made."

The incident has been met with anger by many cricket fans on social media. Ben Mummery, who posted the original video that went viral on X, said, "it's not cricket". Others agreed that it was "against the spirit of the game".

Both Saltburn CC and Norton CC have been contacted for comment.

Stokes-inspired Durham are aiming for three from three

DURHAM head to Jesmond today as they take on Glamorgan.

Their annual visit to Tyneside sees Glamorgan visit South Northumberland CC in the Metro Bank One Day Cup.

Ryan Campbell's side are out to make it three wins from three games after an impressive opening to the competition – fired by Ben Stokes.

The former England skipper scored an unbeaten 108 to lead his side to victory at Derby last week and followed it up on Friday, blasting an unbeaten 73 from 51 balls as Durham surged to a 72-run victory over Sussex.

He smashed five sixes and two fours in a thrilling 77-minute stay at the crease after skipper Alex Lees had plundered 132 in the home side's total of 352 for five.

Lees has handed over the List A captaincy to Kasey Aldridge and admitted: "We'd spoken about having a fresh voice in the One Day Cup.

"Kasey has got great leadership credentials, he's an obvious leader in the dressing room. He's very calm even though he's quite an inexperienced player."

Ben Stokes has been in fine form for Durham

Of Friday's win, he added: "I'm delighted with the result against Sussex.

"Early doors, me and Graham [Clark], it was probably a little bit trickier than we'd envisaged. Luckily we got through that and we put a great number on the board."

"With the ball, that first 10 overs, I think the guys will be pretty honest about it. I think it was pretty underwhelming in truth. We let them get to 70 without really trying, but to then get a grip of the game."

Campbell has named an unchanged squad of 14 the game which is a sell-out, with no tickets available on the day.

Gates open at 10am for an 11am start.

DURHAM: Colin Ackermann, Kasey Aldridge (capt), Graham Clark, George Drissell, Emilio Gay, Shafiqullah Ghafari, Alex Lees, James Minto, Haydon Mustard, Duanne Olivier, Will Rhodes, Luke Robinson, Ollie Robinson (wk), Ben Stokes.

RUGBY UNION

Champs first for Red Bulls

NEWCASTLE Red Bulls will kick off their Gallagher Prem campaign with a trip to champions Northampton on September 25.

The Friday night clash at Franklin's Gardens opens the 2026-27 season, with derby rivalries taking centre stage on round four from October 16-18.

Festive fixtures over Christmas and New Year will take place on a three-week run across rounds seven to nine.

Big Game 18 moves to December 28 for the first time as Harlequins welcome Northampton to Allianz Stadium, Twickenham.

Bristol's Big Day Out returns in round 13 with the Bears hosting Gloucester at the Principality Stadium in Cardiff.

The Prem final will be played at Allianz Stadium on June 19.

Gallagher Prem chief executive Simon Massie-Taylor said: "Today's fixture release is the moment supporters can start looking towards the season ahead – circling local derbies in calendars, planning away days and counting down to the return of the Gallagher Prem.

"From a fascinating opening-night clash on TNT Sports between our champions and the ambitious Newcastle Red Bulls, through derby weekend, festive fixtures and our big stadium events, we've built a calendar that gives fans more occasions than ever to get behind their clubs.

"And following a landmark agreement to change our operating model earlier this year, we are well on the way with our plans to expand the league by the 2029-30 season."

BOXING

Taylor set for 'dream' night

KATIE Taylor has revealed she would have quit boxing if she not had the opportunity for a Croke Park swansong.

The 39-year-old light-welterweight will end her decorated career at the Dublin venue on September 5, when victory over Flora Pili will see her crowned undisputed world champion for the third time.

"I had basically retired after the last fight. But I kept training, because in the back of my mind I was thinking about Croke Park," she said.

"This is the stuff of dreams."

HORSE POWER

RACING TIPS FOR TODAY'S MEETINGS

Bow Echo to make stand for the Classic generation

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Today at Goodwood:

The seven-race card gets underway at 1:50pm with a 1m4f handicap featuring impressive Doncaster winner Hatteen. A competitive renewal of the Oak Tree Stakes (3pm) is followed by the Molecomb Stakes (3:35pm). Unbeaten Adonius takes on Listed winner Crownbreaker and Pershaada, who has course form. That leads into the Sussex Stakes, where the talented Bow Echo (4:10pm) bids to make it six wins from six starts. The star three-year-old fended off Gstaad in last month's St James's Palace Stakes.

Gstaad once again lines up in opposition alongside Queen Anne Stakes victor Ten Bob Tony and last year's Vintage Stakes winner Zavateri. Away from Goodwood, the Galway Plate (6:40pm) takes centre stage on the second day of the Galway Festival.

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TAKE TIME TO THINK
taketimetothink.co.uk

By GIDEON BROOKS

IT HAS not been smooth sailing for the Classic generation since the summer opened up to all aged affairs, but Bow Echo can strike a blow to rebalance the books in the Visit Qatar Sussex Stakes at Goodwood.

Aside from Constitution River in the Eclipse, three-year-olds have struggled to make an impact so far with the Falmouth, Pretty Polly at the Curragh, the July Cup and King George VI And Queen Elizabeth Stakes all been landed by older horses.

No one is saying the Classic bunch are duds just yet though, particularly after Benvenuto Cellini held up well at Ascot in the King George, and in Bow Echo, we might just be talking about the best of the lot.

George Boughey's stable star was as good a winner of the 2000 Guineas as you could have wished, streaking home two and three-quarters of a length in front of Gstaad.

While the Aidan O'Brien horse narrowed that to a short head at Royal Ascot in the St James's Palace Stakes, the selection had to overcome early trouble in running and then probably hit the front too soon in the straight.

The fight he showed to hold the runner-up was pleasing and while there is clearly not much between them Bow Echo might prove better suited to the track here in Sussex.

Hatteen could not have found things easier than when winning a St Leger trial at Doncaster last time out and if he continues to improve could head back for the Classic itself.

A first dip into handicap company in the Coral Rewards Shaker Handicap will be a good test of such ambitions but an initial mark of 88 may not be enough to contain him, even in a strong looking field.

Pershaada was a comfortable winner of a novice event at Goodwood in May and did her reputation no harm at all in a strong renewal of the Queen Mary, finishing a two-and-a-half-length fourth behind Victorious.

Everything that has come out of that race has boosted it with the second Senorita Bonita landing a Group Two, two Listed winners and a couple of winners at lower grades.

Against that backdrop, Pershaada's fourth, keeping on the stands side when the action was unfolding away from her, looks worth marking up.

Billy Loughnane after winning the 2000 Guineas with Bow Echo

TODAY'S TIPS

GALWAY: 5.05 C Pas Possible, 5.35 Coded Welder, 6.05 Zahra Dodville, 6.40 Will The Wise, 7.15 Abbotsford, 7.50 God Of Power, 8.20 Cock And Bull.

GOODWOOD: 1.50 Hatteen, 2,25 Wild Blossom, 3.00 Flora Of Bermuda, 3.35 Pershaada, 4.10 BOW ECHO (NAP), 5.00 Calling A Star, 5.40 Crimson Spirit

LEICESTER: 5.55 Fairy Well, 6.27 Amber Ocean, 7.02 Moving Shadow, 7.37 Von Krolock, 8.10 Clocker, 8.40 Spiritoftheblues.

REDCAR: 2.05 Star Material, 2.40 Vanilla Skies, 3.15 Leopards Rock, 3.50 Sandy Craic, 4.20 Valsharah, 4.50 Tees George.

SANDOWN: 5.45 Happy Banner, 6.15 Justcallmepete, 6.50 Lancaster Tower, 7.25 Santiago Boy, 8.00 Lady Milton, 8.30 Outflank.

DOUBLE: Bow Echo and Pershaada.

Throw in her course form and she looks the one to be on in Veuve Cliquot Molecomb Stakes.

Flora Of Bermuda has to give weight away in the Rolls-Royce Oak Tree Stakes but could be up to the task under James Doyle.

Andrew Balding's five-year-old battled hard to land the Group Three Summer Stakes at York last time out over six furlongs and was as strong at the line as anywhere so could improve for a first try at seven furlongs.

Star Material looks solid in the Racing TV Free Trial British Apprentice Handicap which kicks off Redcar's card.

A decent if slightly inconsistent sprinter at two, he looked more professional on his first start since being gelded, running on well close home at Chepstow and he can go well for Conor Whiteley in what is turning into a breakthrough season.

At Galway, Will The Wise can land the valuable Tote Galway Plate for trainer Gavin Cromwell.

The seven-year-old, who has won here on the west coast over half a mile shorter, is up 5lb for a convincing success in the Topham Chase over the Grand National fences and has been kept for this since.

GOODWOOD TODAY

Going: Good-good to firm in places
Draw: Low numbers best in sprints, though a fast start is equally important.

SARABAND		MAJOR BET
HATTEEN	1.50	CANNES
WILD BLOSSOM	2.25	HIDDEN GIFT
FLORA OF BERMUDA	3.00	SAYIDAH DARIYAN
PERSHAADA (NB)	3.35	RULER'S PRIDE
BOW ECHO (NAP)	4.10	OPERA BALLO
CALLING A STAR	5.00	CASHBOX
CRIMSON SPIRIT	5.40	GOLDMOYNE

1.50 *CORAL REWARDS SHAKER HANDICAP (2) (3-Y-O) 1m 4f Winner £38,655 (9 run) ITV1/RTV*

1	(1)	-39	**TIERRA DEL TORO** (41) R Beckett 9-9	James Doyle	89
2	(7)	210	**CANNES** (41) J P O'Brien (IRE) 9-7 (BF, D)	D Browne McMonagle	94
3	(3)	313	**INFRAAD** (19) W Haggas 9-2 (BF)	T Marquand	94
4	(9)	-12	**BAY ROYALE** (71) Harry Eustace 9-1 (BF)	P-L Jamin	94
5	(6)	221	**HATTEEN** (20) A Balding 9-0 (D)	O Murphy	94
6	(5)	232	**BALTIC FLEET** (61) I Williams 8-12	W Buick	79
7	(4)	202	**BLUE HERCULES** (18) W Muir & C Grassick 8-12	B Loughnane	99
8	(2)	411	**PARISIAN SCHOLAR** (18) C Johnston 8-6 (D2)	R Scott	94
9	(8)	224	**SEA AND SUN** (20) C Johnston 8-6	S De Sousa	70

BETTING: 5-2 Cannes, 10-3 Infraad, 4 Hatteen, 15-2 Bay Royale, 8 Tierra Del Toro, 10 Baltic Fleet, 16 Parisian Scholar, 20 Blue Hercules, 25 Sea And Sun.

2025: OMNI MAN 9 9, Ryan Moore 8-1 (J P O'Brien(Ire)), drawn (1), 9 ran.

FORM GUIDE: CANNES 7-2fav Held up in rear, pushed along 3f out, never involved, 14th of 19, 11l behind Enceladus at Royal Ascot 1m 4f her hcp 0-105 (2) gf in Jun. **INFRAAD** 8-13fav Wore earplugs to post, slowly away, held up in rear, short of room 2f out, pushed along over 1f out, short of room again 1f out, switched left and stayed on into third final furlong, just missed second, 3rd of 8, 1 1/2l behind King's Code at Chester 1m 2f hcp 0-95 (3) gd. **HATTEEN** 11-2 Midfield, pushed along and headway 2f out, went second over 1f out, led 1f out, went clear final furlong, comfortably, won at Doncaster 1m 4f nov stks (2) gf beating According To Mark by 4 1/2l, 8 ran. **BAY ROYALE** 5-6fav Took keen hold, chased leaders, headway and led over 2f out, ridden and went two lengths clear 2f out, headed inside final furlong, kept on, 2nd of 10, 1 1/2l behind Knights Charge at Nottingham 1m 2f nov mdn stks (3) gs in May. **TIERRA DEL TORO** 10-1 Wore hood to post, prominent, in touch with leaders after 4f, ridden over 2f out, no extra over 1f out, 9th of 19, 7l behind Enceladus at Royal Ascot 1m 4f her hcp 0- 105 (2) gf in Jun. **BALTIC FLEET** 15-8 Wore hood to post, chased leader, shaken up over 3f out, ridden 2f out, lost second but challenging over 1f out, went second again inside final furlong, not pace of winner, 2nd of 4, 2l behind Galilean Quality at Wolverhampton 1m 4f 3yo hcp 0-90 (3) in May. **PARISIAN SCHOLAR** 11-2 Held up in fourth, took closer order over 4f out, headway to lead over 2f out, pressed over 1f out, went well clear with runner-up final furlong, always doing enough, won at Newmarket 1m 4f hcp 0-85 (4) gf beating First Officer by 1/2l, 5 ran. **BLUE HERCULES** 18-1 Took keen hold, in touch with leaders, ridden and headway and in touch with winner 2f out, kept on and pressed winner final 110yds, held towards finish, 2nd of 8, nk behind Tryfan at Ascot 1m 4f hcp 105 (2) gf. **SEA AND SUN** 50-1 Held up in touch, asked for effort and progress 2f out, plugged on final furlong, 4th of 8, 5l behind Hatteen at Doncaster 1m 4f nov stks (2) gf.

2.25 *EBF ALICE KEPPEL FILLIES' CONDITIONS STAKES (2) (2-Y-O) 5f Winner £51,540 (9 run) ITV1/RTV*

1	(3)	311	**CALL NICKI** (13) T Easterby 9-2 (D2)	D Allan	84
2	(9)	21	**DIVINE WHISPER** (32) G Boughey 9-2 (D)	B Loughnane	86
3	(7)	410	**ENVISION** (42) James Owen 9-2 (D)	C Fallon	70
4	(1)	201	**FAST TRACK** (15) A Balding 9-2 (D)	O Murphy	92
5	(5)	25	**HIDDEN GIFT** (40) R & P Fahey 9-2	Oisin Orr	97
6	(4)	503	**MISS LIZZY** (26) C Fellowes 9-2	P Bradley	95
7	(8)	530	**PRINCESSE D'ORANGE** (42) D O'Meara 9-2 (D)	R L Moore	87
8	(2)	10	**WILD BLOSSOM** (42) K R Burke 9-2 (D)	James Doyle	99
9	(6)	211	**ZIGAZIG AH** (11) R Spencer 9-2 (D)	S Osborne	90

BETTING: 7-4 Wild Blossom, 10-3 Hidden Gift, 6 Fast Track, 8 Miss Lizzy, Princesse D'orange, 10 Zigazig Ah, 14 Divine Whisper, 25 Call Nicki, 33 Envision.

2025: SPICY MARG 9 2, Kieran Shoemark 4-1 (M Bell), drawn (6), 11 ran.

FORM GUIDE: WILD BLOSSOM 7-1 Raced far side, prominent, ridden to dispute lead in group 2f out, headed and carried right over 1f out, no extra final 110yds, 10th of 27, 4 1/2l behind Victorious at Royal Ascot 5f 2yo fll Grp 2 (1) gf in Jun. **HIDDEN GIFT** 25-1 Wore hood to post, took keen hold, led but pestered, ridden over 2f out, headed over 1f out, weakened final 110yds, 5th of 25, 6l behind Libertango at Royal Ascot 6f 2yo fll Grp 3 (1) gf in Jun. **FAST TRACK** 1-10fav Wore hood to post, made all, unchallenged, comfortably, won at Beverley 5f 2yo fll nov stks (4) gf beating Kokumi by 7l, 4 ran. **MISS LIZZY** 11-2 Wore hood to post, in touch with leaders, ridden 2f out, briefly went second entering final 110yds, no impression towards finish, 3rd of 8, 1 3/4l behind Bint Archange at Sandown 5f 2yo lst stk (1) gd. **PRINCESSE D'ORANGE** 80-1 Raced near side, in touch with leaders, ridden over 1f out, faded 1f out, 17th of 27, 10l behind Victorious at Royal Ascot 5f 2yo fll Grp 2 (1) gf in Jun. **ZIGAZIG AH** 17-2 Raced centre, midfield, headway 2f out, pushed along over 1f out, pressed leader final furlong, led post, won at Newbury 5f 2yo auc (2) gf beating Angels Lane by ns, 24 ran. **DIVINE WHISPER** 2-9fav Midfield, ridden and headway to lead over 1f out, pressed inside final furlong, always doing enough, won at Windsor 5f 2yo nov stk (5) gf in Jun beating Blondie Larry by 1l, 8 ran. **CALL NICKI** 5-4fav Made all, pushed along 2f out, kept on strongly final furlong, won at Hamilton 5f 2yo hcp 0-85 (4) gf beating Tango Hotel by 4 1/2l, 3 ran. **ENVISION** 150-1 Wore hood to post, led overall far side, ridden and headed 2f out, soon weakened, 22nd of 27, 14l behind Victorious at Royal Ascot 5f 2yo fll Grp 2 (1) gf in Jun.

3.00 *ROLLS-ROYCE OAK TREE STAKES (FILLIES' AND MARES' GP 3) (1) 7f £62,381 (14 run) ITV1/RTV*

1	(4)	101	**FLORA OF BERMUDA** (19) A Balding 5 9-9 (C)	James Doyle	99
2	(5)	105	**ROYAL VELVET** (32) W Knight 5 9-9 (D6)	W Buick	93
3	(12)	569	**BRAZILIAN ROSE** (22) R Menzies 5 9-6 (D2)	Kaiya Fraser	90
4	(14)	022	**DASH OF AZURE** (18) R Beckett 4 9-6 (D2)	H Crouch	95
5	(8)	377	**HAVANA PUSEY** (18) J Gallagher 6 9-6 (CD)	C Lee	91
6	(13)	2-6	**QUEEN'S REIGN** (97) E Walker 5 9-6 (C, D)	K Shoemark	70
7	(1)	101	**RADIANT BEAUTY** (22) James Owen 5 9-6 (D)	M Ghiani	89
8	(6)	-39	**SAYIDAH DARIYAN** (39) R Hughes 4 9-6	R L Moore	97
9	(2)	-00	**AWAKEN** (40) G Boughey 3 8-13	B Loughnane	76
10	(11)	738	**GOLDEN PALACE** (35) R & P Fahey 3 8-13	David Egan	92
11	(10)	-38	**ISLE OF FERNANDEZ** (80) K Ryan 3 8-13	T Eaves	90
12	(3)	29-	**ORION'S BELT** (305) R Hannon 3 8-13 (D)	P Dobbs	—
13	(9)	-41	**PLANET SEEKER** (18) R Beckett 3 8-13 (C, D)	J P Spencer	90
14	(7)	-90	**ZANTHOS** (40) S & E Crisford 3 8-13 (D2)	O Murphy	88

BETTING: 3 Sayidah Dariyan, 10-3 Zanthos, 9-2 Flora Of Bermuda, 8 Dash Of Azure, 10 Awaken, 12 Isle of Fernandez, 14 Royal Velvet, Planet Seeker, 16 Others.

2025: SAQQARA SANDS 3 8 13, Rossa Ryan 16-1 (R Beckett), drawn (10) dead heated with TABITI 3 8 13, Ryan Moore 9-2 ((R Beckett)), drawn (7), 13 ran.

FORM GUIDE: SAYIDAH DARIYAN 40-1 Mid-division, switched right to join main group after 1f, ridden over 1f out, kept on one pace final furlong, 9th of 18, 2 3/4l behind Almeraq at Royal Ascot 6f Grp 1 (1) gf in Jun. **ZANTHOS** 28-1 Wore hood to post, raced centre, never better than mid-division, 16th of 22, 10l behind Venetian Sun at Royal Ascot 6f 3yo Grp 1 (1) gf in Jun. **FLORA OF BERMUDA** 3-1 Wore hood to post, awkward start, midfield, ridden and headway to lead 2f out, soon drifted right, a length ahead entering final furlong, kept on and always doing enough towards finish, won at York 6f flls Group 3 stks (1) gf beating First Instinct by nk, 13 ran. **DASH OF AZURE** 7-1 Wore hood to post, midfield, pushed along over 1f out, headway final furlong, took second close home, not reach winner, 2nd of 9, nk behind Northern Champion at Chester 7f Listed stks (1) gd. **AWAKEN** 20-1 Wore hood to post, raced centre, held up in rear, ridden and headway 2f out, faded inside final furlong, 15th of 30, 14l behind Green Carrera at Royal Ascot 1m 3yo fll hcp 0-105 (2) gf in Jun. **ISLE OF FERNANDEZ** 50-1 8th of 15, 8l behind Diamond Necklace at ParisLongchamp(FR) 1m 3yo Fll Grp 1 (1) sft in May. **PLANET SEEKER** 12-1 Held up towards rear, switched right and headway over 1f out, soon ridden to lead, ran on well final furlong, cosily, won at Newmarket 7f fll hcp (2) gf beating Machadadorp by 3 1/2l, 9 ran.

3.35 *VEUVE CLICQUOT MOLECOMB STAKES (GROUP 3) (1) (2-Y-O) 5f Winner £62,381 (11 run) ITV1/RTV*

1	(4)	111	**ADONIUS** (84) R Menzies 9-3 (D3)	Kaiya Fraser	90
2	(9)	180	**BILL THE BULL** (11) Adam Kirby 9-3	P Cosgrave	85
3	(3)	512	**EL FLORIDITA** (39) N Tinkler 9-3 (D)	R Scott	96
4	(8)	10	**FLIGHT SIGNAL** (39) A Watson 9-3 (D)	T Marquand	70
5	(11)	21	**HELL OF A SPIN** (18) A Keatley 9-3 (D)	MP Sheehy	76
6	(5)	10	**RULER'S PRIDE** (43) K R Burke 9-3 (D)	James Doyle	70
7	(1)	155	**SALE SHARK** (12) H Palmer 9-3 (D)	O Murphy	88
8	(6)	231	**UNDERCOVER AFFAIR** (16) P Evans 9-3 (CD)	B Loughnane	80
9	(10)	512	**BRAZILIAN DIVA** (25) D Dias (IRE) 9-0 (D)	Diego Lima	99
10	(2)	251	**CROWNBREAKER** (25) K P De Foy 9-0 (D)	David Egan	90
11	(7)	214	**PERSHAADA** (42) R Hannon 9-0 (CD)	S M Levey	93

BETTING: 10-3 Ruler's Pride, 7-2 Pershaada, 4 Adonius, 11-2 Crownbreaker, 13-2 El Floridita, 10 Sale Shark, 12 Brazilian Diva, 16 Flight Signal, 50 Others.

2025: LADY IMAN 9 3, Ryan Moore 11-8 Fav (G M Lyons(Ire)), drawn (2), 8 ran.

FORM GUIDE: RULER'S PRIDE 13-2 Handy on near side, ridden along 2f out, bumped and lost ground over 1f out, soon weakened, 17th of 21, 12l behind Great Barrier Reef at Royal Ascot 6f 2yo Grp 2 (1) gf in Jun. **PERSHAADA** 33-1 Raced near side, chased leaders, ridden over 1f out, kept on final furlong, 4th of 27, 2 3/4l behind Victorious at Royal Ascot 5f 2yo fll Grp 2 (1) gf in Jun. **ADONIUS** 10-3 Started quickly, made all, shaken up 2f out, pushed along over 1f out, ridden inside final furlong, kept on well, won at Chester 5f 2yo stks (2) gd in May beating Hickory Lad by 1 1/4l, 7 ran. **CROWNBREAKER** 10-3 won at Deauville(FR) 5f 2yo lst stk (1) sft beating Drazinda by 1l, 9 ran. **EL FLORIDITA** 150-1 Raced centre, midfield, headway and ridden over 1f out, kept on well to go second final 50yds, 2nd of 21, 3 1/2l behind Orthodox at Royal Ascot 5f 2yo Grp 2 (1) gf in Jun. **SALE SHARK** 7-2 In touch in rear, not clear run 2f out, soon ridden and switched right, kept on final furlong, no danger, 5th of 10, 4l behind Arapaho Gold at Newbury 6f 2yo lst stk (1) gf. **BRAZILIAN DIVA** 11-1 Tracked leaders, 3rd halfway, pushed along and headway to lead 1f out, ridden and kept on inside final furlong, headed close home, 2nd of 10, hd behind Carry The Flag at Naas 5f 2yo lst stk (1) gd. **FLIGHT SIGNAL** 22-1 Wore hood to post, raced centre, chased leaders, pushed along over 2f out, faded over 1f out, 20th of 21, 24l behind Orthodox at Royal Ascot 5f 2yo Grp 2 (1) gf in Jun. **BILL THE BULL** 25-1 Raced far side, prominent, ridden 2f out, weakened 1f out, 12th of 24, 8l behind Zigazig Ah at Newbury 5f 2yo auc (2) gf.

4.10 *VISIT QATAR SUSSEX STAKES (GROUP 1) (1) 1m Winner £850,650 (12 run) ITV1/RTV*

1	(9)	376	**DOCKLANDS** (18) Harry Eustace 6 9-10 (D4)	James Doyle	90
2	(5)	-15	**LAKE FOREST** (39) W Haggas 5 9-10 (D)	C Fallon	91
3	(2)	552	**NEVER SO BRAVE** (32) A Balding 5 9-10 (BF, D2)	P J McDonald	80
4	(3)	113	**OPERA BALLO** (43) C Appleby 4 9-10 (D5)	W Buick	97
5	(8)	471	**QIRAT** (32) R Beckett 5 9-10 (CD)	C T Keane	85
6	(12)	113	**SEAGULLS ELEVEN** (18) H Palmer 4 9-10 (CD)	O Murphy	89
7	(7)	811	**TEN BOB TONY** (43) E Walker 5 9-10 (D)	K Shoemark	93
8	(4)	-11	**BOW ECHO** (43) G Boughey 3 9-2 (D5)	B Loughnane	99
9	(6)	894	**DORSET** (10) A P O'Brien (IRE) 3 9-2	W M Lordan	70
10	(1)	212	**GSTAAD** (43) A P O'Brien (IRE) 3 9-2 (D2)	R L Moore	99
11	(10)	-46	**PUERTO RICO** (43) A P O'Brien (IRE) 3 9-2 (D)	C Soumillon	90
12	(11)	4-2	**ZAVATERI** (102) E J-Houghton 3 9-2 (C)	C Bishop	83

BETTING: 6-5 Bow Echo, 3 Opera Ballo, 10-3 Gstaad, 14 Ten Bob Tony, Lake Forest, 16 Zavateri, 25 Never So Brave, 50 Puerto Rico, Docklands, 66 Others.

2025: QIRAT 4 9 10, Richard Kingscote 150-1 (R Beckett), drawn (2), 7 ran.

FORM GUIDE: BOW ECHO 5-6fav Squeezed out and restrained in rear start, chased leaders after 1f, smooth headway going easily 2f out, ridden to lead over 1f out, drifted right inside final furlong, faced challenge final 50yds, just held on, won at Royal Ascot 1m 3yo Grp 1 (1) gf in Jun beating Gstaad by shd, 6 ran. **OPERA BALLO** 7-2 Led, pushed along over 2f out, ridden over 1f out, faced challenges final 110yds, soon headed, no extra and lost second final strides, 3rd of 9, 3/4l behind Ten Bob Tony at Royal Ascot 1m Grp 1 (1) gf in Jun. **GSTAAD** 2-1 Chased leaders early, restrained in rear after 1f, pushed along 3f out, ridden and headway 2f out, outpaced over 1f out, rallied strongly inside final furlong, made challenge final 50yds, just failed, 2nd of 6, shd behind Bow Echo at Royal Ascot 1m 3yo Grp 1 (1) gf in Jun. **LAKE FOREST** 6-1 Mounted in chute and wore earplugs to post, missed break, held up in rear, ridden and switched left over 1f out, ran on inside final furlong, not reach leaders, 5th of 18, 1 1/2l behind Almeraq at Royal Ascot 6f Grp 1 (1) gf in Jun. **TEN BOB TONY** 50-1 Held up in rear, shaken up and switched left over 2f out, made good headway over 1f out, ridden to lead final 110yds, kept on well, won at Royal Ascot 1m Grp 1 (1) gf in Jun beating More Thunder by 1/2l, 9 ran. **ZAVATERI** 5-2 Midfield, asked for effort and hung right over 1f out, switched left and headway between horses 1f out, went second final 100yds, no match for winner, 2nd of 8, 1l behind Alparslan at Newbury 7f 3yo Grp 3 (1) gd in Apr. **NEVER SO BRAVE** 6-4fav Wore hood to post, slowly away, took keen hold, soon recovered to chase leaders, went second going well over 2f out, ridden to lead narrowly over 1f out, headed inside final furlong, no extra towards finish, 2nd of 6, 1 1/2l behind Qirat at York 7f Grp 3 (1) gd in Jun. **DOCKLANDS** 9-2 Slowly away, held up in midfield, ridden over 2f out, headway entering final furlong, kept on same pace final 110yds, 6th of 8, 2 3/4l behind Zeus Olympios at Ascot 1m Grp 2 (1) gf. **PUERTO RICO** 16-1 Close up, led after 1f, bumped when ridden and headed over 2f out, weakened over 1f out, last of 6, 12l behind Bow Echo at Royal Ascot 1m 3yo Grp 1 (1) gf in Jun.

5.00 *CORAL CHARLTON HANDICAP (4) 6f Winner £20,616 (28 run) RTV*

1	(13)	164	**EXPERT AGENT** (11) S C Williams 6 9-12 (D8)	M Ghiani	91
2	(4)	116	**SIR GARFIELD** (12) J & S Quinn 5 9-12 (D4)	J Hart	89
3	(14)	1-4	**MYTHICAL COMPOSER** (175) C Cox 4 9-12 (BF, D)	H Crouch	—
4	(9)	141	**WINCHURCH** (27) M Appleby 4 9-11 (D)	Mason Paetel (5)	89
5	(22)	4-2	**LIPSINK** (47) M Appleby 9 9-10 (D6)	A Rawlinson	89
6	(27)	441	**UNDER THE TWILIGHT** (16) M Blake 8 9-10 (D5)	H Davies	89
7	(2)	222	**SUPREME KING** (19) P Evans 6 9-10 (D7)	O Murphy	91
8	(23)	096	**MAE AMOR** (20) R Menzies 4 9-9 (D4)	D Allan	93
9	(24)	361	**VINGEGAARD** (43) J Camacho 4 9-8 (D)	R Sexton	89
10	(26)	072	**CASHBOX** (25) C Hills 3 9-7 (D)	David Egan	91
11	(12)	168	**CHARLIE MASON** (15) A Carroll 5 9-7 (D6)	Myla Coppins (5)	91
12	(16)	896	**WRECK IT RYLEY** (18) A Brown 6 9-7 (D4)	R Dawson	93
13	(21)	38-	**BORN SLIPPY** (298) R Spencer 3 9-7 (D)	S Osborne	99
14	(18)	624	**ARDUIS INVICTA** (32) Craig Lidster 3 9-7	T Eaves	91
15	(19)	752	**SILVER WRAITH** (6) E Lavelle 4 9-6 (D2)	S M Levey	91
16	(7)	113	**RORY ROCKET** (18) G & J Moore 4 9-6 (BF, D)	Jude Fernandes (7)	89
17	(17)	714	**CALLING A STAR** (19) R Hughes 3 9-5 (D2)	W Buick	89
18	(8)	113	**VELVET RHYTHM** (11) C Johnston 3 9-4	R Scott	89
19	(10)	301	**TEX** (5) G Baker 5 9-4	P Cosgrave	88
20	(20)	005	**KESTA** (40) E J-Houghton 3 9-3 (D)	C Bishop	79
21	(6)	436	**KANISHKA** (33) I Williams 3 9-3	C Fallon	97
22	(3)	-25	**LUNAR MELODY** (72) R & P Fahey 3 9-3 (BF)	James Doyle	88
23	(1)	400	**COTAI LIGHTS** (23) A Keatley 3 9-3 (D)	MP Sheehy	93
24	(11)	604	**RILEY ROCKS** (44) D Cunha 3 9-2 (D2)	K S McHugh (7)	84
25	(5)	450	**ZIGGY'S CONDOR** (45) Adam Kirby 5 9-2 (D3)	S De Sousa	95
26	(15)	246	**FRENCH AFFAIR** (39) J Candlish 3 9-2 (D)	B Loughnane	93
27	(25)	606	**FRESH FADE** (29) M Attwater 3 9-2 (D)	K Fox	70
28	(28)	217	**SARGENT DENNIS** (6) J Channon 3 9-1 (D)	T Marquand	86

BETTING: 15-2 Supreme King, 8 Velvet Rhythm, 10 Under The Twilight, Sir Garfield, 12 Mythical Composer, Cashbox, Expert Agent, French Affair, Silver Wraith, 14 Others.

2025: No corresponding race.

FORM GUIDE: SUPREME KING 5-1 Went early to post, midfield, asked for effort over 1f out, went third final furlong, took second and pressed winner near finish but held, 2nd of 6, nk behind Top Juggler at Chester 5f hcp 0-85 (4) gd. **VELVET RHYTHM** 6-1 Led, ridden over 1f out, headed final furlong, lost second final strides, 3rd of 6, 2 1/2l behind All Moonshine at Newbury 7f flls hcp 0-130 (3) gf. **SIR GARFIELD** 6-1 Prominent, asked for effort over 1f out, challenged 1f out, faded final 110yds, 6th of 7, 4 1/2l behind Strike Red at Hamilton 6f hcp 0-100 (2) gf. **UNDER THE TWILIGHT** 6-1 Held up in rear, switched left and headway over 1f out, led inside final furlong, ran on, won at Windsor 6f hcp 0-80 (4) gf beating Amazonian Dream by 1 1/2l, 12 ran. **CASHBOX** 8-1 Led, pushed along 2f out, edged left and ridden over 1f out, faced challenge over 110yds out, headed narrowly towards finish, 2nd of 7, nk behind Mr Writer at Leicester 7f 3yo hcp 0-80 (4) gf. **EXPERT AGENT** 7-1 Mounted on chute, prominent, pushed along to chase leaders inside final furlong, kept on, 4th of 8, 3 1/2l behind Spring Bloom at Newmarket 6f hcp 0-80 (4) gf. **FRENCH AFFAIR** 5-2 Chased leaders, pushed along 2f out, ridden and faded 1f out, 6th of 13, 5l behind Toastmaster at Doncaster 7f 3yo hcp 0-80 (4) gf in Jun. **MYTHICAL COMPOSER** 9-4fav Keen, chased leaders, shaken up over 2f out, made headway on outer over 1f out, soon no chance, weakened inside final furlong, 4th of 10, 5l behind I'm Workin On It at Kempton 7f hcp 0-85 (4) pol in Feb. **SILVER WRAITH** 9-2 Led, ridden approaching final furlong, headed over 110yds out, kept on one pace, 2nd of 8, 2l behind Waistcoat at Newbury 6f hcp 0-75 (5) gf. **CALLING A STAR** 20-1 Led, ridden over 1f out, headed final 110yds, kept on, 4th of 11, 3/4l behind Sierra Sands at Newmarket 7f 3yo hcp 0-80 (4) gf.

5.40 *HKJC WORLD POOL HANDICAP (3) 7f Winner £25,770 (20 run) RTV*

1	(20)	105	**COLOMBIER** (18) H Al Jehani (UAE) 6 9-10 (D3)	James Doyle	96
2	(13)	100	**DEFENCE MINISTER** (41) H Al Jehani (UAE) 4 9-10 (D)	J P Spencer	89
3	(5)	-42	**BOBBY BENNU** (32) R Varian 5 9-10 (BF, D2)	R Dawson	94
4	(19)	-09	**ONE SMACK MAC** (25) J Osborne 4 9-10	W Carver	83
5	(16)	002	**PELLITORY** (19) D O'Meara 4 9-9 (D3)	D Tudhope	96
6	(12)	320	**SILVER GHOST** (25) E Lavelle 4 9-8 (BF, CD)	David Egan	96
7	(15)	916	**MORTE POINT** (19) W Muir & C Grassick 4 9-8 (D4)	J Hart	96
8	(1)	509	**THE FINGAL RAVEN** (18) J Osborne 4 9-8 (D)	S Osborne	91
9	(8)	607	**HAWKSBILL** (34) R Spencer 4 9-8	G Wood	91
10	(14)	134	**SUPERPOSITION** (19) E Dunlop 5 9-7 (D)	W Buick	96
11	(10)	142	**CRIMSON SPIRIT** (18) D & C Kubler 5 9-6 (CD)	R L Moore	96
12	(17)	132	**HUNTERS LULLABY** (20) N Petersen (NOR) 5 9-5	Elione Chaves	—
13	(7)	000	**RAJEKO** (32) M Bell 4 9-5	H Crouch	70
14	(3)	005	**RHOSCOLYN** (13) D O'Meara 8 9-5 (CD3)	O Murphy	99
15	(9)	125	**ZARATHOS** (31) D Cunha 4 9-5 (BF, D)	K Shoemark	96
16	(4)	885	**DIVINE LIBRA** (25) C Hills 6 9-4 (D2)	T Marquand	95
17	(18)	003	**HUMAM** (31) S C Williams 4 9-4 (D2)	S De Sousa	86
18	(11)	004	**OLIVER SHOW** (68) G Boughey 6 9-4 (D2)	B Loughnane	96
19	(6)	223	**GOLDMOYNE** (19) James Owen 6 9-4 (BF, D5)	Mason Paetel (5)	96
20	(2)	511	**THE LIFFEY** (27) Hayley Burton 5 9-4	M Ghiani	—

BETTING: 7-2 Bobby Bennu, 13-2 Crimson Spirit, 15-2 Goldmoyne, 8 Rhoscolyn, 10 Silver Ghost, Pellitory, 14 Divine Libra, Colombier, 16 Others.

2025: GREAT ACCLAIM 4 9 6, Charles Bishop 18-1 (E J-Houghton), drawn (4), 20 ran.

FORM GUIDE: BOBBY BENNU 3-1fav Went early to post, midfield, smooth progress 2f out, shaken up to lead over 1f out, soon pressed, kept on final furlong, headed final strides, 2nd of 14, nk behind Room Service at Newcastle 7f 3yo hcp 0-105 (2) in Jun. **CRIMSON SPIRIT** 11-2 Prominent, pushed along to lead over 1f out, edged left inside final furlong, headed final 110yds, kept on, 2nd of 11, 3/4l behind Secret History at Newmarket 7f hcp 0-90 (3) gf. **GOLDMOYNE** 7-2fav Wore hood to post and mounted in chute, keen, prominent, ridden over 2f out, took lead inside final furlong, headed and lost two places post, 3rd of 17, nk behind Northern Express at York 7f hcp 0-95 (3) gf. **RHOSCOLYN** 22-1 Prominent, ridden over 2f out, soon squeezed and lost position, weakened inside final furlong, last of 5, 6l behind I'll Be Back at Hamilton 1m hcp 0-100 (2) gf. **PELLITORY** 14-1 Keen in midfield, ridden over 1f out, headway to challenge inside final furlong, stayed on strongly and took second post, just denied, 2nd of 17, hd behind Northern Express at York 7f hcp 0-95 (3) gf. **SILVER GHOST** 10-3fav Wore hood to post, raced centre, towards rear, struggling when groups merged 2f out, never on terms, last of 10, 15l behind Royal Zabeel at Newmarket 7f hcp 105 (2) gf. **COLOMBIER** 10-1 Awkward leaving stalls, raced centre, took keen hold, midfield, ridden and hung left over 1f out, headway inside final furlong, weakened toward finish, 5th of 13, 2 1/2l behind Aalto at Newmarket 7f hcap (2) gf.

LEICESTER TODAY

Going: Good to firm-firm in places
Draw: Low numbers best on the straight course.

5.55 *IRISH STALLION FARMS EBF MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES (4) (2-Y-O) 6f Winner £5,757 (5 run) RTV*

1	(1)	77	**CARAVEL** (11) S Woods 9-2	D Muscutt	78
2	(3)	4	**COAT OF RED** (67) S & E Crisford 9-2	D Probert	70
3	(2)	4	**FAIRY WELL** (27) J Chapple-Hyam 9-2	K Stott	99
4	(5)	0	**PURE MAJESTY** (19) W Haggas 9-2	Jack Doughty	99
5	(4)		**SIOUX MOON** C Fellowes 9-2	S Donohoe	—

BETTING: 5-2 Fairy Well, 3 Caravel, 4 Pure Majesty, Coat Of Red, 5 Sioux Moon.

2025: AWAKEN 9 2, Billy Loughnane 1-12 Fav (G Boughey), drawn (2), 7 ran.

FORM GUIDE: FAIRY WELL 14-1 Towards rear, pushed along to chase leaders over 1f out, outpaced inside final 110yds, weakened towards finish, 4th of 6, 3l behind Ash Tree at Nottingham 6f 2yo fll mdn (3) gf. **CARAVEL** 8-1 Wore hood to start, midfield, headway 3f out, chased leaders over 1f out, weakened inside final 110yds, 7th of 10, 6l behind China In Your Hand at Newmarket 7f mdn flls stks (4) gf. **COAT OF RED** 11-4 Prominent, shaken up and disputed lead briefly over 1f out, held inside final furlong, 4th of 9, 8l behind Dark Issue at Goodwood 6f mdn flls stks (3) gd in May.

6.27 *BSL-IT A DECADE IN THE SADDLE NURSERY (5) (2-Y-O) 5f Winner £3,926 (6 run) RTV*

1	(2)	21	**AMBER OCEAN** (13) Dr R Newland & J Insole 9-9 (D)	D Probert	70
2	(1)	733	**WOLF'S GALLOP** (32) T Lacey 9-5	D Muscutt	99
3	(6)	432	**MY MARIA** (21) A Watson 9-4	W Cox	70
4	(4)	237	**PENNY ARCADE** (42) O Greenall & J Guerriero 9-4	D Nolan	72
5	(5)	33	**PRETTY LITTLE BABY** (34) Charlie Clover 9-2 (BF)	D Keenan	70
6	(3)	853	**PJ'S CORNER** (28) D Cunha 9-1	S Donohoe	72

BETTING: 5-2 Amber Ocean, 11-4 My Maria, 4 Wolf's Gallop, 5 Pretty Little Baby, 6 Pj's Corner, 14 Penny Arcade.

2025: No corresponding race.

SARABAND		MAJOR BET
FAIRY WELL	5.55	COAT OF RED
AMBER OCEAN	6.27	MY MARIA
MOVING SHADOW	7.02	MOVING SHADOW
VON KROLOCK	7.37	MELISSA HONEY
CLOCKER	8.10	CLOCKER
SPIRITOFTHEBLUES	8.40	SPIRITOFTHEBLUES

7.02 *NOVICE STAKES (4) 7f Winner £5,400 (4 run) RTV*

1	(2)	17-	**MOVING SHADOW** (271) K R Burke 3 9-11 (CD)	S James	70
2	(3)		**WINSTON'S OATH** James Owen 4 9-11	C Howarth (3)	—
3	(4)	754	**SIWA OASIS** (15) C Hills 3 9-4 (BF)	D Probert	99
4	(1)		**YORDAN** K Ryan 3 9-4	K Stott	—

BETTING: 11-8 Moving Shadow, 13-8 Siwa Oasis, 3 Yordan, 25 Winston's Oath.

2025: RELEASE THE STORM 3 9 4, Joe Leavy 10-1 (B Meehan), drawn (6), 12 ran.

7.37 *REMEMBERING MIKE FURLONG HANDICAP (6) 6f Winner £3,140 (6 run) RTV*

1	(4)	5-5	**CALAFRIO** (207) G Baker 5 9-9 (BF, D2)	B Sayette	—
2	(5)	426	**RYE** (54) A Carroll 4 9-9 (BF)	Jack Doughty	99
3	(6)	315	**TOMARLO** (13) Ollie Sangster 4 9-8 (D2)	S D Bowen	77
4	(2)	316	**VON KROLOCK** (95) James Owen 7 9-7 (BF, D)	C Howarth (3)	70
5	(3)	121	**MELISSA HONEY** (25) M Herrington 4 9-7 (CD)	D Probert	96
6	(1)	550	**LAST OUTLAW** (31) M Young 5 9-0 (C)	B Robinson	—

BETTING: 6-4 Melissa Honey, 3 Calafrio, 5 Tomarlo, 6 Rye, 13-2 Von Krolock, 25 Last Outlaw.

2025: No corresponding race.

8.10 *JOIN RACING TV TODAY HANDICAP (6) 1m 4f Winner £3,140 (4 run) RTV*

1	(1)	461	**CLOCKER** (18) E Bethell 3 9-9	K Stott	83
2	(2)	648	**AL'S RIVER** (55) James Horton 3 9-6	D Muscutt	70
3	(4)	725	**CAPTAIN CAIRNEY** (4) W Muir & C Grassick 3 9-5	R Kavanagh (3)	99
4	(3)	P05	**THIS RIB** (23) D Loughnane 3 9-0	Laura Pearson	75

BETTING: 4-6 Clocker, 5-2 Captain Cairney, 6 This Rib, 16 Al's River.

2025: RICARDO PHILLIPS 4 9 9, Joe Leavy 4-1 (H Candy), drawn (3), 6 ran.

8.40 *HANDICAP (5) 1m Winner £3,926 (5 run) RTV*

1	(4)	354	**CANCELLED** (25) J & A O'Neill 5 10-2	K Stott	90
2	(3)	897	**SPECIAL GHAIYYATH** (16) P Charalambous & J Clutterbuck 4 9-12 (D2)	Rose Dawes (5)	70
3	(1)	367	**SILKEN BAY** (59) Dr R Newland & J Insole 3 9-9 (D)	D Probert	99
4	(5)	723	**SPIRITOFTHEBLUES** (16) D O'Meara 3 9-7	D Nolan	84
5	(2)	453	**BATTOSAI** (26) Jack Morland 3 9-4	Josephine Gordon	96

BETTING: 6-4 Spiritoftheblues, 7-4 Cancelled, 4 Battosai, 8 Silken Bay, 33 Special Ghaiyyath.

2025: No corresponding race.

FORM GUIDE: SPIRITOFTHEBLUES 11-4 Held up in rear, pushed along to make headway inside final furlong, ran on well inside final 110yds, took third towards finish, no chance with leading pair, 3rd of 5, 6l behind Pearl Eye at Ayr 1m 2f hcp 0-75 (5) gf. **CANCELLED** 9-1 Held up in rear, headway 1f out, chased leaders inside final furlong, no extra towards finish, 4th of 9, 3 1/2l behind Porth Eilian at Beverley 1m flls hcp 0-75 (5) gf. **BATTOSAI** 4-1 Prominent, pushed along over 3f out, lost position 2f out and one pace, 3rd of 4, 7l behind Last Verse at Chepstow 1m 4f 3yo hcp 0-75 (5) gf. **SILKEN BAY** 50-1 Prominent, briefly led after 4f, soon headed but remained in touch, ridden over 2f out, soon faded, last of 7, 18l behind Sharp Romance at Nottingham 1m 2f flls hcp 0-130 (3) gd in May.

REDCAR TODAY

Going: Good to firm-good in places
Draw: Middle to high numbers have a decided advantage on the straight course

2.05 *RACING TV FREE TRIAL BRITISH APPRENTICE HANDICAP (4) 6f Winner £4,841 (7 run) RTV*

1	(7)	240	**ARTAGNAN** (65) H Al Jehani (UAE) 4 10-1 (BF, D2)	J Nicholls	95
2	(4)	033	**AMORIM** (33) G Boughey 3 9-10 (D)	J Callan	96
3	(1)	983	**STAR MATERIAL** (26) A Keatley 3 9-6	Conor Whiteley	92
4	(5)	072	**KATS BOB** (18) R Carr 8 9-6 (D10)	W Pyle	97
5	(3)	8-0	**MYTHICAL PHOENIX** (54) J Camacho 6 9-6	W Fentiman	70
6	(6)	460	**FIRST FOLIO** (18) J Camacho 8 9-4 (D4)	T Kiely-Marshall	92
7	(2)	304	**ARCHDUKE FERDINAND** (14) S Spencer 7 9-3 (CD2)	Shay Farmer	99

BETTING: 9-4 Amorim, 3 Kats Bob, 4 Artagnan, 5 Star Material, 8 Archduke Ferdinand, 14 Mythical Phoenix, 25 First Folio.

FORM GUIDE: AMORIM 13-8 Chased leader, pushed along 3f out, ridden over 2f out, outpaced 1f out, soon beaten, weakened inside final furlong, last of 3, 9l behind Marengo Storm at Newmarket 7f 3yo hcp 0-85 (4) gf in Jun. **KATS BOB** 22-1 Led, pushed along over 2f out, kept on gamely, challenged final 110yds, headed towards finish, 2nd of 19, nk behind Magic Boy at York 6f hcp 0-80 (4) gf. **ARTAGNAN** 3-1fav A little slow into stride, soon in touch, outpaced over 2f out, weakened quickly, last of 11, 13l behind Badri at Redcar 6f hcp 0-85 (4) gf in May. **STAR MATERIAL** 9-1 Steadied in rear, pushed along and switched left for headway over 1f out, ran on and went third close home, never nearer, 3rd of 8, 1 1/2l behind Maid In Devon at Chepstow 6f 3yo hcp 0-80 (4) gf. **ARCHDUKE FERDINAND** 9-1 Went early to post, tracked leaders, pushed along over 2f out, plugged on final furlong, 4th of 8, 3 1/2l behind The Good Biscuit at Catterick 6f hcp 0-80 (4) gf. **MYTHICAL PHOENIX** 12-1 Went to post early wearing red hood, towards rear, pushed along over 2f out, no response, 11th of 13, 8l behind Novello Lad at Doncaster 6f hcp 0-85 (4) gf in Jun. **FIRST FOLIO** 33-1 Towards rear, ridden 2f out, never on terms, 10th of 19, 6l behind Magic Boy at York 6f hcp 0-80 (4) gf.

2.40 *APPRENTICE FILLIES' NOVICE STAKES (4) 7f Winner £5,400 (7 run) RTV*

1	(6)		**MYSTIC WAVE** D Thompson 4 9-9	Rhys Elliott	—
2	(5)	12	**VANILLA SKIES** (18) W Haggas 3 9-9 (D)	H Burns	94
3	(2)		**ANCIENT REALM** J Camacho 3 9-2	T Kiely-Marshall	—
4	(4)	244	**ARETI** (12) Oliver Cole 3 9-2	J Callan	99
5	(1)		**BOWIE LASS** N Tinkler 3 9-2	A Jary	—
6	(7)	78	**LADY GREY** (73) T Easterby 3 9-2	J Dickson	70
7	(3)	7	**ROYALE UNION** (24) K R Burke 3 9-2	J Nicholls	—

BETTING: 13-8 Vanilla Skies, 7-4 Areti, 5 Royale Union, 14 Ancient Realm, 16 Bowie Lass, Mystic Wave, 20 Lady Grey.

FORM GUIDE: VANILLA SKIES 3-1 Raced keenly in fourth, improved over 2f out to chase leader, soon pushed along, kept on but no match, 2nd of 5, 4l behind Odogwu at Salisbury 7f nov mdn stks (4) gf. **ARETI** 8-1 Wore hood to post, pressed leader, ridden over 2f out, lost position over 1f out, kept on same pace, 4th of 10, 1 1/4l behind Accademia at Newbury 1m 3yo hcp 0-75 (5) gf. **ROYALE UNION** 11-2 Slowly away, held up in rear, shaken up over 2f out, briefly short of room when ridden over 1f out, plugged on inside final furlong, 7th of 12, 2 3/4l behind Miss Gallant at Southwell 7f flls nov stk (5). **ANCIENT REALM** Saxon Warrior filly out of Nepali Princess. **BOWIE LASS** Starman filly out of Bebhinn. **MYSTIC WAVE** Intrinsic filly out of Sea My Angel. **LADY GREY** 50-1 Keen in midfield, ridden over 1f out, soon weakened, last of 8, 16l behind Zen Diva at Ripon 6f fll nov stks (4) gd in May.

3.15 *STEPHEN AND ALAN MULLEY APPRENTICE HANDICAP (5) 1m 2f Winner £3,664 (9 run) RTV*

1	(5)	015	**OPTICIAN** (19) M Herrington 6 10-2	J Nicholls	97
2	(7)	524	**HARSWELL RUBY** (13) Roger Fell 4 10-0 (BF)	J Callan	97
3	(8)	437	**FLYING FLETCHER** (22) R & P Fahey 5 9-13	W Fentiman	98
4	(9)	4-7	**KISIYRA** (55) D Thompson 5 9-11	Rhys Elliott	70
5	(3)	560	**DIDEROT** (30) J Camacho 8 9-11 (D)	T Kiely-Marshall	99
6	(1)	323	**LEOPARDS ROCK** (20) E Bethell 3 9-7	C Horgan	95
7	(6)	043	**LUCKY HERO** (11) D O'Meara 3 9-7 (C)	Conor Whiteley (3)	99
8	(4)	490	**NATZOR** (32) Lizzie Quinlan 6 9-5 (D2)	W Pyle	—
9	(2)	601	**KITSUNE POWER** (15) T Easterby 7 9-0 (D2)	J Dickson (3)	97

BETTING: 10-3 Leopards Rock, 7-2 Harswell Ruby, 9-2 Optician, 5 Kitsune Power, Lucky Hero, 13-2 Flying Fletcher, 20 Diderot, 50 Kisiyra, 66 Natzor.

SARABAND		MAJOR BET
STAR MATERIAL	2.05	AMORIM
VANILLA SKIES	2.40	VANILLA SKIES
LEOPARDS ROCK	3.15	HARSWELL RUBY
SANDY CRAIC	3.50	WILD DAHLIA
VALSHARAH	4.20	NIGHT EMPEROR
TEES GEORGE	4.50	WOODLEIGH

3.50 *APPRENTICE FILLIES' HANDICAP (5) 1m Winner £6,281 (7 run) RTV*

1	(4)	12-	**WILD DAHLIA** (280) W Haggas 3 9-9 (D)	H Burns	—
2	(3)	930	**KISS ME MY LOVE** (4) Roger Fell 4 9-7 (CD)	W Fentiman	79
3	(2)	172	**BORJINA** (26) E Bethell 3 9-6	C Horgan	70
4	(7)	512	**SANDY CRAIC** (25) D O'Meara 3 9-5 (BF)	Conor Whiteley	70
5	(1)	231	**HOMESTRAIT** (20) B Ellison 3 9-5	J Callan	70
6	(5)	172	**THORNABY ANNIE** (15) Adrian Nicholls 3 9-3 (D)	J Nicholls	99
7	(6)	155	**ONLY DREAM BIG** (19) T Easterby 3 8-12 (C, D)	J Dickson	79

BETTING: 10-3 Wild Dahlia, 4 Sandy Craic, 9-2 Borjina, 5 Homestrait, 11-2 Thornaby Annie, 6 Kiss Me My Love, 12 Only Dream Big.

FORM GUIDE: WILD DAHLIA 7-2 Held up in midfield, pushed along 2f out, kept on inside final furlong, chased winner close home, no danger, 2nd of 5, 2 3/4l behind Victorious One at Kempton 1m 2yo hcp 0-85 (4) pol in Oct. **SANDY CRAIC** 11-4fav Towards rear, waiting for room 2f out, ridden to chase leaders inside final furlong, soon took second, not reach winner towards finish, 2nd of 9, 1 3/4l behind Porth Eilian at Beverley 1m flls hcp 0-75 (5) gf. **BORJINA** 7-2 Wore hood to start, soon raced in second, pushed along to chase leader 2f out, briefly dropped to third inside final furlong, rallied and regained second towards finish, kept on, 2nd of 10, 1 3/4l behind Accademia at Doncaster 7f fll hcp (5) gf. **HOMESTRAIT** 7-1 Wore hood to post, tracked leaders, ridden along over 2f out, made headway over 1f out, challenging inside final furlong, led final 50yds, kept on well, won at Carlisle 7f hcp 0-70 (5) gf beating Supreme Clarets by nk, 10 ran. **THORNABY ANNIE** 10-3 Chased leader, pushed along 2f out, ridden and chased leader from over 1f out, kept on inside final furlong, held by winner, 2nd of 8, 1 3/4l behind The Sweet Escape at Beverley 7f hcp 0-70 (5) gf.

4.20 *HAPPY BIG BIRTHDAY RACHEL BLIZZARD APPRENTICE HANDICAP (6) 6f Winner £3,140 (9 run) RTV*

1	(6)	430	**STORMY PEARL** (28) D Thompson 6 9-9 (CD)	Rhys Elliott	90
2	(4)	685	**DOLLY'S DELIGHT** (28) I Furtado 4 9-8 (BF)	Elle-May Croot	70
3	(8)	445	**NIGHT EMPEROR** (13) Miss T Jackson 4 9-5 (BF)	W Fentiman	93
4	(2)	678	**MRS TRUMP** (28) P Midgley 6 9-5 (CD)	J Nicholls	70
5	(1)	422	**VALSHARAH** (22) M Appleby 4 9-5 (BF)	Conor Whiteley (3)	93
6	(7)	433	**GOLDEN PROSPERITY** (15) T Coyle & K Wood 7 9-5 (D2)	J Dickson (3)	90
7	(3)	048	**DUE RESPECT** (16) Gary Rutherford 4 9-4 (C)	Amie Waugh	99
8	(9)	-34	**SOUTH SHORE ISLAND** (48) Lizzie Quinlan 4 9-3 (BF)	Molly Keegan-Price (7)	96
9	(5)	0-6	**CAPTAIN BENTLEY** (32) M Mullineaux 7 9-1	P Scott (5)	—

BETTING: 10-3 Valsharah, 4 Night Emperor, 5 Golden Prosperity, 11-2 South Shore Island, 6 Dolly's Delight, 8 Mrs Trump, 10 Stormy Pearl, 14 Due Respect, 33 Captain Bentley.

4.50 *APPRENTICE HANDICAP (6) 1m Winner £3,140 (7 run) RTV*

1	(6)	434	**TEES GEORGE** (11) Adrian Nicholls 6 9-9 (D2)	J Nicholls	91
2	(3)	155	**WOODLEIGH** (11) Roger Fell 5 9-8 (BF, C2, D)	C Horgan	93
3	(2)	138	**PENNY GHENT** (11) S Whitaker 6 9-7 (D2)	Rhys Elliott	99
4	(5)	045	**THATS MY BOY LUKE** (16) T Easterby 5 9-5 (D2)	J Dickson (3)	83
5	(7)	561	**PISANELLO** (10) D O'Meara 9 9-5 (C, D5)	Conor Whiteley (3)	83
6	(1)	209	**MAVETHEFORCEBEWIVU** (15) A Brown 4 8-9	E Tindall	93
7	(4)	734	**ELETTARIA** (30) J Wainwright 7 8-9	T Kiely-Marshall	70

BETTING: 5-2 Pisanello, 3 Tees George, 10-3 Thats My Boy Luke, 9-2 Woodleigh, 10 Elettaria, 14 Penny Ghent, 25 Mavetheforcebewivu.

SANDOWN TODAY

Going: Good to firm
Draw: Low numbers best in sprints, especially in large fields on soft going

5.45 *SPILLERS FUTURE CHAMPIONS APPRENTICE HANDICAP (4) 1m Winner £6,019 (5 run) RTV*

1	(1)	411	**BEST RATE** (12) R Hannon 4 10-4 (D2)	S C Cronin	70
2	(3)	551	**FARASI LANE** (11) M Hammond 8 9-10 (CD)	O Carmichael (5)	70
3	(4)	322	**HAPPY BANNER** (20) E Walker 4 9-7	Ashley Lewis	81
4	(5)	543	**JUNGLE RULER** (25) M Appleby 3 9-7	Toby Moore (7)	70
5	(2)	124	**BROCKLESBY BILL** (12) Kathy Turner 3 9-4	Laura Coughlan	99

BETTING: 11-10 Best Rate, 5-2 Happy Banner, 5 Farasi Lane, 13-2 Jungle Ruler, 20 Brocklesby Bill.

2025: GREAT BLASKET 5 9 9, W Fentiman(3) 10-3 (Dr R Newland & J Insole), drawn (1), 6 ran.

FORM GUIDE: BEST RATE 10-11fav Dwelt, mid-division, headway on inner well over 2f out, took second over 1f out, pushed along and led approaching final furlong, stayed on strongly, won at Pontefract 1m hcp 0-80 (4) gf beating Jez Bomb by 4 1/2l, 6 ran. **HAPPY BANNER** 3-1 Midfield, shaken up and headway over 2f out, soon ridden to lead, headed and carried left inside final furlong, kept on, 2nd of 8, 1/2l behind Swiped at Epsom Downs 1m hcp 0-75 (5) gf. **FARASI LANE** 28-1 Slowly into stride, midfield, ridden over 3f out, switched left for clear run over 2f out, headway to challenge leader inside final furlong, kept on strongly final 110yds, led post, just prevailed, won at Ripon 1m hcp 0-85 (4) gd beating Garden Oasis by hd, 7 ran.

6.15 *SPILLERS HANDICAP (4) 5f Winner £6,019 (7 run) RTV*

1	(6)	315	**JUSTCALLMEPETE** (48) A Carroll 7 10-0	A Egan (7)	96
2	(4)	647	**WHEELS OF FIRE** (58) R Hannon 4 9-12 (BF, D2)	J Leavy	96
3	(3)	553	**ATTICUM** (39) R Cowell 3 9-10 (D)	J Mitchell	99
4	(2)	5-5	**NOVELETTE** (59) S & E Crisford 3 9-9 (CD)	C Rodriguez	86
5	(7)	1-7	**HYPNOTISED** (96) Harry Charlton 3 9-6 (D)	L Edmunds	70
6	(1)	513	**RAGE OF THUNDER** (20) G & J Moore 4 9-4 (BF)	Jason Watson	95
7	(5)	47-	**ARMY BUGLER** (306) W Greatrex 3 9-0 (D)	E Greatrex	—

BETTING: 7-4 Rage Of Thunder, 9-2 Justcallmepete, 5 Hypnotised, 6 Atticum, 8 Wheels Of Fire, 10 Army Bugler, Novelette. 2025: No corresponding race.

FORM GUIDE: RAGE OF THUNDER 15-8fav Slowly away, held up in rear, steady headway over 2f out, ridden and bit to do over 1f out, kept on and went third inside final furlong, not pace to challenge, 3rd of 8, 1l behind Ancient Times at Epsom Downs 6f hcp 0-80 (4) gf. **JUSTCALLMEPETE** 11-1 Took keen hold, prominent, pressed leader 3f out, ridden and briefly led 2f out, chased leaders over 1f out, soon weakened, 5th of 8, 3 1/2l behind Wild Clary at Newbury 6f hcp 0-85 (4) gs in Jun. **HYPNOTISED** 13-2 Took keen hold, midfield, pushed along 2f out, weakened inside final 110yds, 7th of 9, 8l behind Black Star Boy at Sandown 5f 3yo hcp 0-100 (2) gd in Apr. **ATTICUM** 7-2 Started slowly, in rear and detached early, ridden and made rapid headway inside final furlong, took third towards finish, 3rd of 6, 6l behind Schrodinger's Cat at Redcar 5f 3yo hcp 0-85 (4) gd in Jun.

6.50 *CHASEMORE FARM EBF NOVICE STAKES (3) (2-Y-O) 7f Winner £7,020 (7 run) RTV*

1	(4)	1	**QUEST FOR STARS** (20) C Appleby 9-11 (D)	C Planas	99
2	(6)		**DANCING DUNES** R Beckett 9-4	E Greatrex	—
3	(7)		**GROVE STREET** B Meehan 9-4	J Leavy	—
4	(1)		**KING HIGH** Owen Burrows 9-4	C Rodriguez	—
5	(2)		**LANCASTER TOWER** J & T Gosden 9-4	R Havlin	—
6	(5)		**MONTALBANO** A Balding 9-4	C Hutchinson	—
7	(3)	7	**SECANO** (27) Harry Charlton 9-4	L Edmunds	70

BETTING: 9-4 Quest For Stars, 5-2 Lancaster Tower, 10-3 King High, 8 Dancing Dunes, Grove Street, 12 Montalbano, 33 Secano.

2025: OKAGON 9 7, Luke Catton(5) 10-3 (J & T Gosden), drawn (2), 8 ran.

7.25 *SPILLERS WINNERS HANDICAP (5) (3-Y-O) 1m Winner £4,449 (9 run) RTV*

1	(5)	865	**NEXT GUILIAN** (16) B Millman 9-9	L Edmunds	91
2	(1)	548	**SANTIAGO BOY** (23) C Hills 9-9	Jason Watson	87
3	(4)	-07	**SYDNEY ROCK** (16) Oliver Cole 9-9	Ashley Lewis (5)	81
4	(2)	389	**HOME HERO** (27) H Palmer 9-9	R Havlin	99
5	(9)	175	**SOGNIAMO** (12) D O'Meara 9-8	C Rodriguez	95
6	(6)	363	**GALBA** (47) K Frost 9-8	J Mitchell	94
7	(7)	160	**TERRANOBLE** (67) D Coakley 9-6	R Hornby	70
8	(8)	579	**INGEMAR** (23) B Meehan 8-13	J Leavy	88
9	(3)	848	**BENNYWORTH** (13) J Boyle 8-8	T Heard	93

BETTING: 11-8 Galba, 6 Next Guilian, 13-2 Santiago Boy, 7 Home Hero, 8 Ingemar, Sogniamo, 14 Sydney Rock, 25 Terranoble, Bennyworth.

2025: EARTHWATCH 9 9, Cieren Fallon Evens Fav (W Haggas), drawn (1), 7 ran.

FORM GUIDE: GALBA 28-1 Wore hood to start, midfield, switched left to make headway inside final furlong, took third towards finish, 3rd of 10, 1l behind Lion of Mali at Sandown 7f 3yo hcp 0-75 (5) gd in Jun. **NEXT GUILIAN** 200-1 Mid-division, some headway over 3f out, outpaced and no impression on leaders final 2f, 5th of 11, 8l behind Levens Hall at Windsor 1m nov mdn stks (4) gf. **SANTIAGO BOY** 9-2 Towards rear, never a factor, 8th of 12, 11l behind Rogue Defence at Lingfield 1m nov auc stks (5) pol. **HOME HERO** 22-1 Led early, chased leaders, pushed along over 2f out, lost place over 1f out, 9th of 11, 5l behind Morcar at Newbury 1m 2f hcp 0-75 (5) gf. **INGEMAR** 100-1 Prominent on outer, hung right and lost position over 2f out, faded over 1f out, 9th of 12, 12l behind Rogue Defence at Lingfield 1m nov auc stks (5) pol. **SOGNIAMO** 7-2 Raced in third, lost position 3f out, asked for effort 2f out, held from 1f out, eased final 110yds, last of 5, 8l behind Stella Lucente at Hamilton 1m fll hcp (5) gf. **SYDNEY ROCK** 8-1 Slowly away, in rear, ridden over 2f out, always outpaced, last of 7, 14l behind Zooella at Lingfield 6f fll hcp (3yo+) (5) pol.

8.00 *SPILLERS FILLIES' HANDICAP (5) 1m 2f Winner £4,449 (10 run) RTV*

1	(10)	450	**KIMEKO GLORY** (27) C Hills 4 10-0 (CD)	Taryn Langley (5)	78
2	(3)	551	**CELESTIAS COMET** (25) J Fanshawe 4 10-0 (D)	J Peate	81
3	(4)	221	**AMMOONY** (72) Tom Clover 3 9-9 (D)	J Mitchell	81
4	(1)	343	**TAKE A VIEW** (30) Harry Charlton 3 9-8	L Edmunds	99
5	(6)	821	**MELODY DE VEGA** (15) Dr R Newland & J Insole 3 9-7 (D)	C Rodriguez	81
6	(7)	232	**LADY MILTON** (16) J Portman 3 9-7 (BF, D)	R Hornby	81
7	(2)	345	**COME ON EIBHLIN** (25) D Cunha 3 9-5	R P Downey	87
8	(9)	957	**PERSHALLA** (6) A Perrett 4 9-5	R Havlin	87
9	(5)	593	**ENAMORUS** (25) H Palmer 3 9-5	Jason Watson	70
10	(8)	1-2	**SPIRIT OF ATHENE** (18) E Walker 3 9-4	Ashley Lewis (5)	84

BETTING: 7-2 Celestias Comet, 4 Ammoony, 9-2 Spirit Of Athene, 6 Melody De Vega, 7 Lady Milton, 8 Take A View, 12 Enamorus, Come On Eibhlin, 25 Others.

2025: KIMEKO GLORY 3 9 6, Hector Crouch 15-2 (Brian Toomey), drawn (3), 10 ran.

8.30 *SPILLERS SPECTACULAR HANDICAP (4) (3-Y-O) 1m 6f Winner £6,019 (4 run) RTV*

1	(2)	-81	**LAST VERSE** (26) J Parr 9-9	J Mitchell	70
2	(1)	336	**OUTFLANK** (40) J & T Gosden 9-7	Faleh Bughanaim	99
3	(4)	111	**KAKIRRA** (20) Ollie Sangster 8-12	R Hornby	70
4	(3)	232	**BOILERMAKER** (11) Harry Charlton 8-12 (BF)	L Edmunds	84

BETTING: 2 Kakirra, 9-4 Last Verse, Boilermaker, 13-2 Outflank.

2025: SCARLET MOON 9 6, Hollie Doyle 18-1 (A Watson), drawn (3), 6 ran.

SARABAND: 5.45 Happy Banner, 6.15 Justcallmepete, 6.50 Lancaster Tower, 7.25 Santiago Boy, 8.00 Lady Milton, 8.30 Outflank.
MAJOR BET: 5.45 Happy Banner, 6.15 Justcallmepete, 6.50 Grove Street, 7.25 Galba, 8.00 Ammoony, 8.30 Last Verse.

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Promising start for ace Le Fee

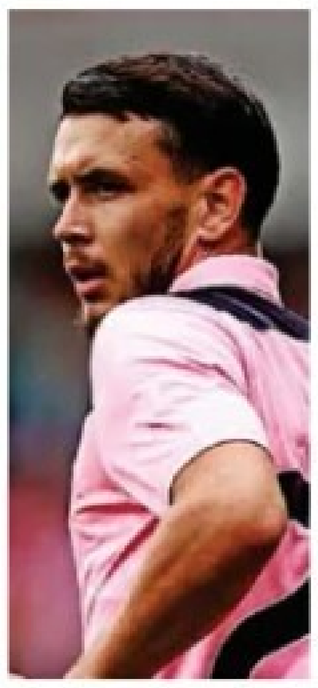
By CLIVE YOULTON

REGIS Le Bris is encouraged by Enzo Le Fée's goalscoring form at the start of pre-season as Sunderland prepare for the new Premier League next month.

The Frenchman is understandably delighted with the impact his countryman is making, with the promise of more to come in 2026/27.

Le Fée *(below)* scored a stunning long-range strike against Liverpool in the 4-2 defeat over the weekend, having begun the summer with a brace at York City a week earlier.

It continues an encouraging trend for the 26-year-old, who looked a greater goal threat from open play after returning to his preferred central position in the final weeks of last season.



Le Bris says there is no doubt about the midfielder's ability to create and connect with his team-mates but thinks an added goal threat can take his game to another level. "In this central corridor, he's brilliant," Le Bris told reporters.

"He can connect with the other midfielders with mobility, freedom. The connection with the centre backs and others is improving as well.

"He's a creative player and if after that he can become even more decisive [in front of goal], he's going to be even more impactful in games."

After an open training session for supporters on Sunday, Sunderland's US tour now moves to New Jersey where the Black Cats will face Leeds United.

Le Bris' squad is bolstered by the returns of Noah Sadiki, Habib Diarra, Robin Roefs, Brian Brobbey, Arthur Masuaku and Simon Adingra following their World Cup commitments.

Le Bris believes those who have been involved in the first two games have set the standard for those now returning.

"It's going to be positive," Le Bris said.

"The first group worked really well and for the players who will join now, they will feel the core of the squad is ready.

"They have to connect with us now, this World Cup experience will be huge and useful for their future."

Balancing act for Black Cats with new blood needed for big tests ahead

WEARSIDERS SEEKING COVER IN KEY POSITIONS FOR BATTLE ON TWO FRONTS

By AARON MORRIS

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SUNDERLAND fans are monitoring the transfer market in anticipation of fresh faces arriving on Wearside.

It's been a slow start to the window for Regis Le Bris' Black Cats, welcoming just 34-year-old Thomas Meunier as a free agent thus far.

And while the Belgian full-back is a quality signing within his own right, bringing a wealth of experience at the highest levels with him, fans are starting to grow anxious that the club haven't made tracks with some of their 'problem positions' – so to speak.

It's evident that Sunderland are in desperate need of reinforcements across the board.

Sure, nobody is expecting a repeat of the full first-team overhaul that Florent Ghisolfi and Kristjaan Speakman executed around this time last year, but there are evidently certain positions which lack depth at present.

And Sunderland's success this coming season could ultimately be made or broken dependent on rotation and extra cover – considering the club will have Europa League football to juggle with their domestic league and cup competitions.

EUROPA LEAGUE FEARS

To say that 2025/26 was a Cinderella story for Sunderland would be the understatement of the century.

The Black Cats scraped Premier League football for the season through the Championship play-offs with a team which lacked any form of experience outside of Luke O'Nien, Alan Browne and Simon Moore.

As a result, the club were written off as relegation fodder by the media, fans and pundits across the country.

However, in reality, Le Bris managed to mastermind the club's most successful season in the English top flight in modern history.

After bringing in 17 fresh faces, inclusive of Enzo Le Fee's loan from Roma being made permanent, Sunderland managed a seventh-place Premier League finish to secure European football for just the second time in the club's history.

However, the opportunity to travel the continent and play some of the world's most prestigious teams isn't without its setbacks.

Sunderland will know fine well just how turbulent parts of last season were through injury to some of their most vital players, as well as losing an abundance of others to AFCON for the best part of a month.

Regis Le Bris will aim to add to the strong core of his squad this summer

With a minimum of two games a week to play when Europa League lands, the likelihood of further injury to players will skyrocket – unless Le Bris is able to properly rotate his squad.

Any injury would jeopardise both domestic and European hopes, meaning that Sunderland will have to invest massively this summer, while also treading UEFA's financial rules and regulations carefully to avoid any form of sanction.

FOUR NEW SIGNINGS

All things considered, there are a number of 'problem positions' that are in dire need of reinforcement if Sunderland hope to sink rather than swim next term.

While Reinildo Mandava is a nailed-on starter at left-back, the Back Cats don't have a comfortable player behind him for rotational purposes – especially following Dennis Cirkin's exit.

And with Reinildo into the twilight years of his career at 32, even the most optimistic of fans wouldn't risk putting faith in the Mozambique international playing every fixture next season, domestically and in Europe. That would be an injury waiting to happen.

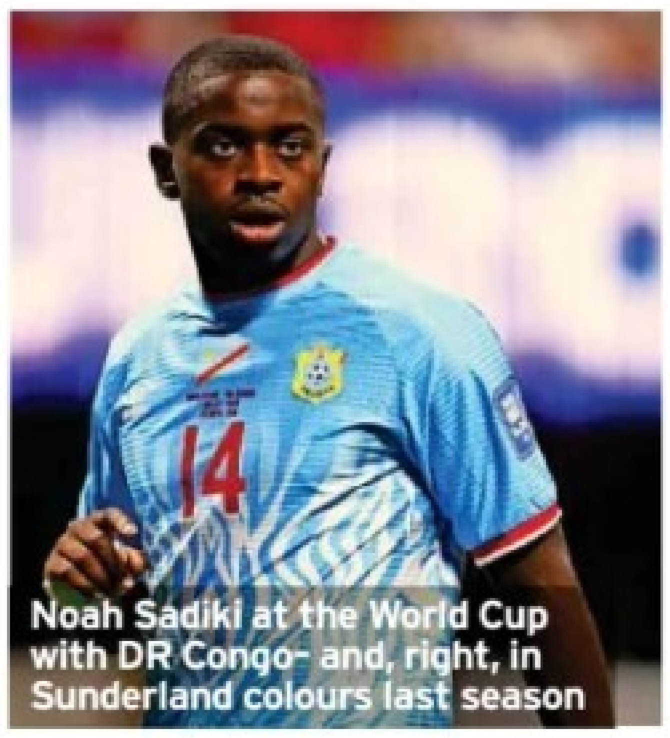
While Fenerbahce's Archie Brown has been touted as a potential target, the Black Cats seem set to sign left-back Dayann Methalie from Toulouse in a deal worth £25.7m, with the 20-year-old ready to pen a five-year contract.

Granit Xhaka at 33 cannot be expected to carry Sunderland domestically and abroad, especially considering how tired the central midfielder looked toward the end of last season.

Arne Engels, Geoffrey Kondogbia and Khephren Thuram are some of the names who have been linked with a move to the Stadium of Light, it's a lesser talked about star that should be favoured.

Yassine Titraoui was flagged as a

'Last season was incredible, but now we all want



Noah Sadiki at the World Cup with DR Congo- and, right, in Sunderland colours last season

NOAH Sadiki is already excited about the Premier League kick-off, which is now less than four weeks away.

After a fine World Cup with DR Congo in the USA, Sadiki was back on American soil over the weekend, returning to Sunderland duties after a run to the Round of 32 at the summer showcase.

He reflected on the campaign with a sense of pride and honour.

"It was an absolutely great feeling to play in the World Cup," he told safc.com.

"It was a huge honour to represent my country on the biggest stage. It's something I've always dreamt about, so for it to become a reality this summer was incredible.

"It's something I will never forget."

He added: "It feels like I've spent all my summer in the USA. The atmosphere for soccer over here felt really familiar and I'm sure that will continue to be the case over the next week we're here."

Sadiki shone for Sunderland last season, as the Black Cats secured a seventh place finish in the Premier League, and with it, qualified for a first European campaign in 53 years.

But he's not stopping there.

"Last season was incredible – but we all want more," he said.

"We had a great team spirit, a

Key men Reinildo Mandava and Luke O'Nien, left; inset top, Granit Xhaka; inset below, Roma winger Matias Soule

potential signing at the start of the window, but in the almost two months since, it has been a case of radio silence for the Sporting Charleroi star – who has since attracted interest from Hull City, Crystal Palace, Olympiakos and Lyon.

Offensively, the midfielder is pacy, has impeccable vision, can thread a pass like no-one else, carries the ball well and has a hell of a shot on him. Defensively, meanwhile, the 23-year-old Algerian has shown that he is not afraid to track back.

Elsewhere, the club could do with another winger – with Simon Adingra looking likely to head for the exit following a successful half-season loan with Monaco.

While we still haven't seen the best from Jocelin Ta Bi and Nilson Angulo since their arrival in January, the former looks to be a player for the future as opposed to a first-team player at present, while Angulo will still require time to adapt to the pace of the Premier League. Considering the success that Le Fee has had on the banks of the River Wear since his move from Roma, the idea of Matias Soule following him appeals.

The Argentinian winger is direct, has pace in abundance, and already has a relationship with Ghisolfi considering he was the man who took him to Roma from Juventus in 2024.

While £29m may be a little steep for the 23-year-old, who has his best years ahead of him, the creativity that Soule would arguably bring to the table would pay dividends if Sunderland can utilise him properly.

Finally, while Brian Brobbey needs to start as many games as possible next season, Sunderland would be wise to bring in a supporting striker to play either alongside him or in rotation.

Eliezer Mayenda left the club for Rennes in a £21.5m move, and Wilson Isidor remains as the only other out-and-out forward on the club's books at present as a result.

While the Haitian enjoyed a formidable World Cup campaign and has proven his worth in the Premier League, it would be a smart move to bring in another goal-scorer to lean on in terms of rotation, especially in the event that Isidor and/or Brobbey become injured this season.

REGIS LE BRIS' NON-NEGOTIABLES

One of the most crucial aspects of succeeding this coming season will be an ability to retain the core of the current team, while adding complementary depth.

The good news for Sunderland fans is that the board have already proven that no amount of money will turn their heads for a key player.

Chelsea came sniffing around for club captain Xhaka earlier this month, and were firmly put in their place with a stance that the midfielder keystone is not for sale under any circumstances. And it's an approach that Louis-Dreyfus and co need to take with a number of Sunderland's other invaluable stars.

Robin Roefs must stay put and be first-choice goalkeeper, despite interest from Chelsea and Liverpool which seems to have since dwindled. Melker Ellborg also has to be retained – impressing when called upon last season.

Meanwhile, Dan Ballard, Trai Hume and Chris Rigg are three talents from the club's Championship days who must stay loyal to the cause. Ballard and Hume were pivotal to Sunderland's success in 2025/26, each seeing their fair share of football for the duration.

While Rigg was deployed less frequently, the 19-year-old looks nailed on to make more of an impact this coming term, especially with more football to be shared around the squad.

Noah Sadiki and Le Fee must also be retained at the Stadium of Light due to their sheer work rate and creativity, while Brobbey must also not see his head turned by interest from the likes of Manchester United, Aston Villa, Spurs and Juventus.

Finally, while not the most technically-gifted of the group, O'Nien also has to remain on board for the new season.

Mr Sunderland gives absolutely everything on the pitch time and time again whenever he is called upon, and his leadership qualities in the dressing room and further afield are instrumental to the club's success going forward.

Dan Ballard was a pivotal figure last season

Given O'Nien has been part and parcel of the cohort since 2018 – and stuck with the club through thick and thin since – there's no doubt that we will see him playing in Europe with the Black Cats this year.

more', insists Sunderland midfielder Sadiki

good group of friends who came together and achieved good things.

"That spirit was natural, not forced - and that's what made us successful on the pitch.

"The gaffer helped us with that as well. We have a young team, we all want to improve, as a team and as individuals.

"Everything has been so good since I came to Sunderland, but I want more, I want to keep improving and getting better and better."

Sadiki made 33 appearances across the 2025/26 Premier League campaign, establishing himself as a key component in the Sunderland midfield.

But he is well aware he'll need to step it up another level again this season.

"I feel like there's more to come from me," he explained.

"I know my numbers need to be better and I am confident I will show that on the pitch this season.

"I need to score more goals and provide more assists this coming season.

"We're all looking forward to the new season.

"I'm excited to play in the Europa League – it'll be amazing for the club.

"I can't wait for the season to get started so we can prove again what a good team we are."

UEFA lays down the law for VAR

OFFICIALS across Europe have restated the need to use VAR only to change "blatantly incorrect" decisions and address clear missed incidents.

UEFA convened referee chiefs from all 55 national associations last week along with representatives from the International Football Association Board (IFAB), which sets the game's laws, in a bid to reach a consensus on the best approach to officiating.

There was "unanimous" support for further measures to speed up restarts, such as the time limits on substitutions and five-second countdowns for goal kicks and throw-ins.

However, arguably the most significant statement was a restating of VAR's original purpose.

"VAR must only intervene in situations of 'clear and obvious' error, i.e. when a referee decision is blatantly incorrect or when the referee has missed a clear incident," a UEFA release stated.

"VAR is not meant to re-referee the game, it is an essential support to the referees, who must remain at the centre of all decision-making.

"Lengthy, microscoping reviews are often a symptom revealing that the decision on the field was not clearly and obviously incorrect, and should therefore be limited."

UEFA also said it welcomed clarification from the IFAB on the interpretation of mistaken identity.

Leagues and other competitions have been told the mistaken identity protocol cannot be used to deal with simulation, as it was during the World Cup, until a review of its use at the finals has concluded.

An IFAB circular has reminded them that, for now, that while the approach used during the World Cup was "well received", VARs can only review cautions to identify the player who committed the offence that was penalised, and that the offences themselves cannot be reviewed.

Switzerland controversially had Breel Embolo sent off for a second yellow card against Argentina after a booking for Leandro Paredes was overturned on review. The official found Embolo had dived.

UEFA is also not expected to introduce other optional measures seen at the World Cup, such as red cards for players covering their mouths when speaking to an opponent, or VAR checks on corners.

Bruno's tip of the hat to United fans

By LEE RYDER
Chief Newcastle writer

BRUNO Guimaraes has offered Newcastle United fans some hope that he will be back to work on Friday – by posting some social media pictures wearing a Magpies bucket hat.

Eddie Howe indicated at the weekend that he had held what sounded like healthy dialogue with his captain and that the plan was to return on July 31.

A smiling Bruno could be seen enjoying a fishing trip in South America as United supporters wait to see whether he is pictured back to work with his team-mates.

So far, Bruno has maintained silence on his X account and last posted anything about Newcastle back on May 28.

As things stand, Newcastle have still not had an official bid for his services from Arsenal, but sources in the capital have made it clear they are not prepared to bid £80m for the midfielder.

Bruno Guimaraes is due back on Tyneside this week

Whether the Gunners end up budging remains to be seen, but Howe is simply keen to get Bruno 'back in the building' as a long and intense training camp lies in place next week.

Bruno said back on May 28: "A very frustrating season, and without a doubt we are all very disappointed.

"You fans definitely did not deserve this. But football doesn't always go the way we plan.

"Individually, I managed to have the season with the most goal contributions in my career, and I would trade all of that for a better position in the table.

"Honestly, I just want to thank the fans for everything. Thank you."

Bruno's future now lies in the hands of sporting director Ross Wilson and CEO David Hopkinson, who are trying to make sure he has the smoothest path back to the club's KNOX training ground and then on to La Manga.

Blueprint to determine way forward is there in black and white

CLUB WILL CONTINUE TO TARGET YOUNG PLAYERS WITH POTENTIAL

Head coach Eddie Howe is 'very supportive' of United's transfer approach under sporting director Ross Wilson (right)

By LEE RYDER
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NEWCASTLE United are expected to resist the temptation to turn to experienced stars in the remainder of the transfer window – as the club try to stay "on mission".

Despite concerns from the fanbase that the current squad lacks experience, Toon chiefs are confident that the likes of Dan Burn, Fabian Schar, Joelinton, Yoane Wissa and Harvey Barnes bring enough nous to the table ahead of the 26/27 season.

England international and free agent John Stones has been offered to a host of Premier League clubs this summer but has wage demands of £250,000 per week, and does not fit into the blueprint on Tyneside.

Having handed Sven Botman a new contract in January, part of the plan at United was to hand the Dutchman – now 26 – more responsibility ahead of the new campaign.

Sean Steur (left) and Aladji Bamba fit the Magpies' new transfer policy

It means that with at least four more potential signings to come in this window, the club are likely to stick with the age policy which has already been underlined by the arrivals of Sean Steur, Aladji Bamba, Ewen Jaouen and Bazoumana Toure.

Howe kicked off his recruitment drive at Newcastle back in 2022 and was afforded senior signings such as Kieran Trippier, Burn, Matt Targett and Chris Wood, and has since been handed funds to buy more established figures such as Nick Pope, Anthony Elanga and Barnes to name a few.

But moving forward, Howe knows that the club want to essentially use St James' Park as a big stage to allow players to build up their value and earn the club millions to trade further.

Howe stated after the draw with Gateshead: "I'm very supportive of what the club want to do. Yeah, there's been a shift in terms of the profile and the age. Again, that's quite obvious. I've always believed in young players and tried to develop young players, so that fits in line with my philosophy anyway."

Newcastle are essentially operating a two-tier transfer system as they sign Academy prospects from around Europe too.

Sporting director Ross Wilson made a mark when the club signed Johan Martinez from Independiente del Valle, and this summer snapped up the services of 6ft 4in striker Afner Ca from Levante.

Wilson has been in the post for almost 10 months now and has taken a long hard look at the club's Academy system, bolstering the scouting department around Europe and in South America, as well as changing the club's loan system a little with Shola Ameobi moved to an ambassadorial position.

Wilson said after signing Ca last week: "We're committed to adding talented young players who can grow with us. We're excited to work with him in our development programme."

Lewis Miley is close to a return

Sidelined duo aiming to make gains in

By LEE RYDER
Chief Newcastle writer

LEWIS Miley is expected to be back up and running in time for Newcastle United's trip to La Manga next week.

Miley missed the 1-1 draw with Gateshead on Saturday after breaking his leg towards the end of last season and missing the run-in.

But the 20-year-old is close to a return, and Magpies head coach Eddie Howe says he will be back with the squad for the journey to Spain on Friday.

Whether Miley features in the meeting at the Mestalla is up for debate on the back of such a severe injury, but Howe told reporters: "Lewis Miley is making really good progress. We think he will be back in La Manga to train."

Speaking about Miley's importance last term, Howe had said: "He's been missed massively. Sometimes with players, you know how important they are and with Lewie, we knew all his attributes and how good he is, but he's added some new strings to his bow in recent games with the versatility.

"Suddenly, when we've lost that, you don't just lose one player, you lose almost three or four in one player.

"His composure on the ball, his

Woltemade drops hint to Howe on favoured role

TEN IS NICK'S PERFECT NUMBER

By SEAN MCCORMICK
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NICK Woltemade returned for pre-season training this week ahead of a big second campaign at Newcastle United following his club record move from Stuttgart last summer.

Woltemade hit the ground running during his first few months of the season, scoring nine goals across all competitions as he thrived as the Magpies' number nine.

But in 2026, the goals dried up and the cohesion of playing as a centre-forward in Eddie Howe's system at Newcastle did not look like it was there at times.

Howe experimented with playing Woltemade in midfield across February and March, but the 24-year-old did not look like a natural fit in that role.

He then found himself out of the side until the final three matches of the season, where the German international played in a number 10 role behind Will Osula, who was playing as a centre-forward.

He seemed to thrive in the role and it gave rise to the hope that it could be his position for the Magpies moving forward as Howe ended the season playing 4-2-3-1 as opposed to 4-3-3.

At Stuttgart, Woltemade scored 17 goals in a season which at times saw him playing in a front two or as a shadow striker for Deniz Undav or Ermedin Demirovic.

And he has admitted that is where he plays his best football – which could well be interpreted as a plea to Howe ahead of the 2026/27 season.

"Preferably in a two-striker system or behind the striker," Woltemade said in a video conversation with former Bayern Munich and Germany star Thomas Muller.

"It's better for me to play with a lot of freedom and when I have someone around me."

Woltemade returns to Tyneside on the back of missing a penalty in Germany's shock penalty shoot-out defeat to Paraguay in the last 32 of the World Cup.

That defeat saw Julian Nagelsmann sacked as Die Mannschaft head coach and he has been replaced by Liverpool and Borussia Dortmund legend Jurgen Klopp.

Woltemade has offered his reflections on that penalty miss and whether he expects to remain a part of the team in the new Klopp era ahead of September's UEFA Nations League fixtures against Netherlands, Greece and Serbia.

"It didn't feel good." Woltemade added. "I asked myself where did I shot my last penalty-kicks and what the goalkeeper would expect. I thought I was the clever one when I went to the right.

"I'm still glad I took the penalty in hindsight. That goes with my way, my character, that I take the ball, although the tournament hasn't gone quite optimally for me by then.

"Many players will be the same. If you look at the age of our players, it is still an exciting team. Now we get a new coach, let's see what will happen. It's nice that we can go again in a few months."

Nick Woltemade celebrates after scoring the winner against Wolves in the early weeks of last season, but the goals dried up for United's record signing

Paraguay goalkeeper Orlando Gill saves Nick Woltemade's penalty as Germany head for a shock World Cup round of 32 shoot-out defeat

Spain as they work towards a return

decision-making, his height, his athleticism, we've missed all of those aspects in his performance.

"Yes, he's only 19 [turned 20 in May], and he's still getting better and improving all the time, but we've got an unbelievable player on our hands, and we'll be delighted to get him back on the pitch."

Another who missed the end of the 2025/26 season is Joelinton, who suffered a hamstring issue, also sat out the end of the season and is aiming for a return in Spain.

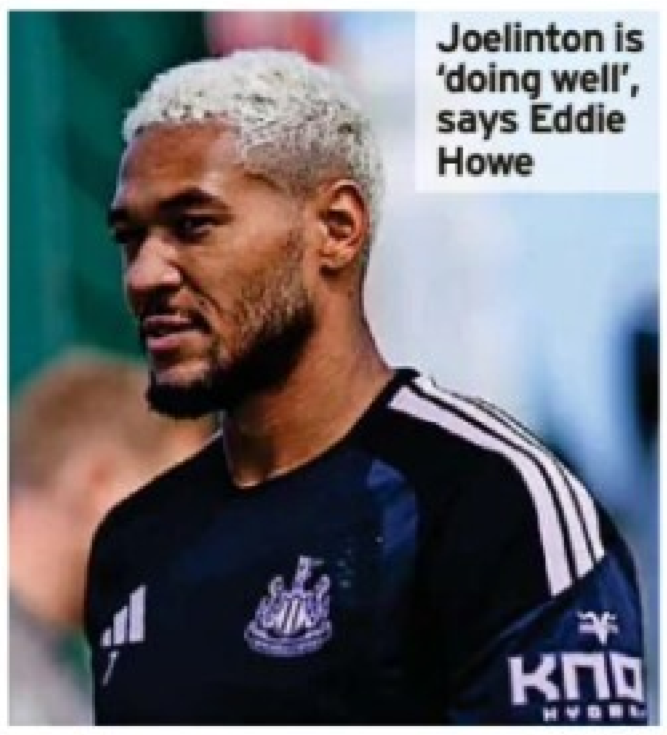
Howe said: "Joelinton is doing well and he is running.

"We are building up his fitness slowly so that he gets his robustness back."

However, the boot camp in the luxury resort will not see a comeback for England defender Tino Livramento, who missed the World Cup despite making the squad at the end of last season. The ex-Chelsea youngster suffered a calf injury training with the Three Lions, and Howe said that while Sven Botman and William Osula are set to return, the full-back will miss out.

He said: "They're all looking like they'll be back and available around La Manga, maybe Tino Livramento apart.

"I think the squad's in relatively good health."



Joelinton is 'doing well', says Eddie Howe

It's no-go on Sucic, Inter tell Magpies

INTER Milan have told Newcastle United that Petar Sucic is not for sale this summer.

The Magpies are on the lookout for reinforcements to the heart of their midfield following Sandro Tonali's departure and speculation over Bruno Guimaraes' future.

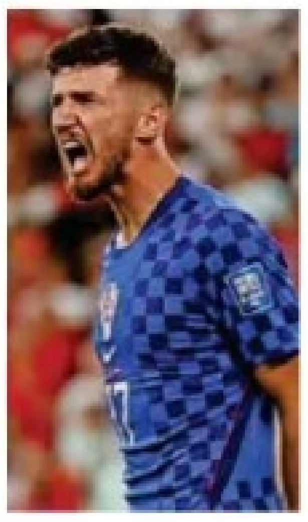
Regardless of whether the Brazilian remains at St James' Park for 2026/27, Newcastle would be wise to make improvements across the board following last season's lacklustre 12th-place finish.

And while Eddie Howe's engine room has already been bolstered by the likes of Sean Steur and Aladji Bamba, it is understood that Sucic *(below)* has also been on the club's radar.

However, according to the Corriere dello Sport, Inter are adamant that the 22-year-old Croatian is going nowhere this summer.

It is also understood that Inter would only consider exceptional bids to facilitate a move, highlighting his importance to the team for the upcoming campaign.

On top of a stellar World Cup campaign with Croatia, Sucic played a key role in 34 Serie A matches for Inter last season.



It has been a hit-and-miss window for Newcastle United thus far, missing out on a couple of key targets despite securing a number of others.

Winger Bazoumana Traore and goalkeeper Ewen Jaouen join Steur and Bamba as new arrivals.

Traore – who favours the left – is an out-and-out replacement for Anthony Gordon, following his move to Barcelona in a £69m deal earlier this summer.

Jaouen, meanwhile, will look to solve problems between the sticks following an unfortunate season for both Nick Pope and Aaron Ramsdale.

While Newcastle fans were waiting to accept Johan Manzambi from Freiburg with open arms this summer, the midfielder instead opted to join Aston Villa in a last-minute change of heart.

However, a number of fresh names have since been linked with a move to the North East, including Eintracht Frankfurt midfielder Hugo Larsson, Porto winger Oskar Pietuszewski, Sevilla's Ruben Vargas and Atalanta centre-half Giorgio Scalvini.

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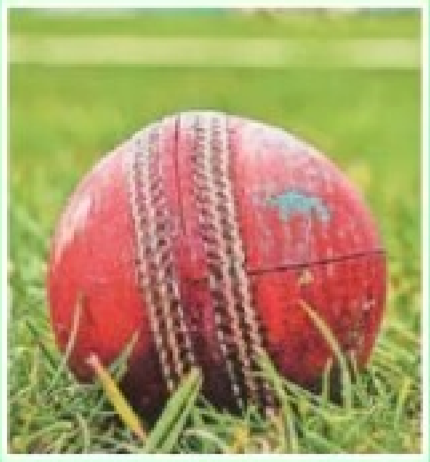

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CRICKET: PAGE 33

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Debuts delayed for Magpies' new boys

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BAZOUMANA Toure and Aladji Bamba may have to wait to make their Newcastle United debuts – with the pair still getting up to speed in pre-season training.

The summer signings have now trained with their new team-mates after big moves from Hoffenheim and Monaco, but are unlikely to face Bristol City in front of well over 3,000 travelling United fans in the South West this evening.

Newcastle shared a clip of Toure setting up Anthony Elanga for a training goal on Monday, while footage of 6ft 4in Bamba towering over Eddie Howe also underlined what type of presence he is going to have this coming season.

The 1-1 draw with Gateshead came too early for Bamba and Toure, with debuts dished out to Sean Steur and Ewen Jaouen at the International Stadium, but their bow may now come after the La Manga training camp next week, with the clash against Valencia their next possible opportunity.

Week by week and game by game, Newcastle are looking stronger, and Howe may also have returning World Cup stars Malick Thiaw, Nick Woltemade and Yoane Wissa back at his disposal against the Robins.

Despite Howe referencing a "challenging" summer, Newcastle's allocation for Ashton Gate has sold out, with 3,407 set to make the long journey to Bristol.

It remains to be seen if Woltemade, Thiaw and Wissa are in the squad for the meeting with the Championship side.

Woltemade, will be looking forward to his first taste of action since the World Cup, when he was afforded just a cameo role against Paraguay before being asked to take a penalty when lacking sharpness, and missing in Boston as Germany went out.

However, he has been showered with support by his club fans since that fateful night in Massachusetts and cut a happy figure back with his team-mates at the KNOX.

Thiaw, too, will be keen to get minutes in his legs in the next couple of weeks after playing just 40 minutes for Germany at the tournament, but all three stars who played in the US and Mexico may have to wait until the Mestalla for minutes.

Wissa returns to Newcastle after a good World Cup with DR Congo after three goals in the US and Mexico, with his country only beaten by England after Harry Kane's late show in Atlanta.

> Eddie Howe's side visit Bristol City tonight

IT'S A GLORIOUS DAY FOR OSBORNE

> Jockey Saffie Osborne on Twilight Calls (second right) on their way to winning the Coral Rewards Shaker Handicap race on day one of the Glorious Goodwood Andrew Matthews

Young French defender on the way to Wearside?

MATTY HEWITT

SUNDERLAND have reportedly agreed terms with young French defender Dayann Methalie ahead of a proposed move to the Stadium of Light.

Reports in France claim the Black Cats have agreed a five-year contract with the 20-year-old left-back, who is also able to play in the heart of defence.

Talks with Toulouse are ongoing to finalise a reported £25.7m deal for the French youth international, having impressed since breaking into the first team.

Club-to-club talks are ongoing to finalise a deal, which would become a club-record sale for Toulouse.

Newcastle United have also been linked with a move for the young French defender.

Sunderland are keen on adding a left-back to their ranks ahead of their first European venture since 1973-74.

Dennis Cirkin left the club at the end of his contract, leaving Reinildo as the other left-back option at Regis Le Bris' disposal.

The Black Cats have brought in just one signing ahead of the new campaign, with experienced defender Thomas Meunier joining as a free transfer following his departure from Lille.

Sunderland have kept a close eye on the French league throughout the campaign, with Methalie catching the eye.

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